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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count data book and report card examines statewide and county level trends in the well-being of California's children, with an additional focus on indicators of the new economic realities encountered by families as counties take on greater responsibility for local welfare programs. The statistical portrait is based on indicators in the following 12 areas: (1) family economic realities; (2) family expenses and child support; (3) family health; (4) infant mortality; (5) teen births; (6) high school dropout rates; (7) high school graduates prepared for college; (8) K-12 education; (9) child abuse; (10) foster care; (11) gun-related incidents resulting in child injury or death; and (12) youth arrests. The report's introduction details serious limitations with the available data, discusses data interpretation, and presents recommendations for state and county officials and Californian citizens to improve conditions for California families. The bulk of the report contains state and county level fact sheets reporting on demographic information and the indicators throughout the 1990s. The California fact sheet indicates that although the state economy is booming, a large percentage of children are from low-income or extremely poor families. The infant mortality rate dropped considerably since 1990; however, birth outcomes have not improved. The teen birth rate decreased for all ethnic groups. There has been steady improvement in the high school dropout rate for all ethnic groups. After climbing steadily for 10 years, the child abuse rate leveled off in the last 2 years. The report's summary tables list state and countywide data for comparison purposes. (KB)

A CHILDREN NOW REPORT

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Challenges Ahead: Can Counties Make the Grade?

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Challenges Ahead: Can Counties Make the Grade?

CHILDREN NOW

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INTRODUCTION

As counties, in the wake of welfare reform, take on greater responsibility for local programs serving families, county-level information on children will be a critical tool for monitoring results. Children comprise two-thirds of those currently receiving cash assistance and thus have the greatest stake in the county decision-making ahead.

In recognition of the particular challenges posed by this year's welfare changes, *California County Data Book '97* includes new information detailing the economic realities families encounter, including the number of job seekers per new job, the proportion of new mothers with less than a high school education, unemployment rates and child care costs for infants and preschoolers. These indicators provide a glimpse at the complex issues involved in helping families become self-sufficient. The data also indicate the difficulties encountered by many families who are working yet earning relatively low incomes. In 1996, nearly half (46%) of the state's children lived in families earning $29,700 or less annually for a family of four. High housing and child care costs are just two of the many challenges that confront families.

In our effort to create a complete picture of families' economic situation, we encountered serious limitations with the available data. Important information about children's lives remains unavailable at the state level; at the county level, data needs are even greater. Critical issues where timely and comparable county data are lacking include:

- the number of children living in poverty;
- homelessness and housing insecurity among children;
- children affected by hunger or poor nutrition;
- children without health insurance;
- children waiting for quality child care spaces;
- children who do not receive the full amount of child support owed to them; and
- children's achievement in school.

In order for counties and the state to plan human service programs and monitor their impact on children, better information on children's well-being is needed at the county level. The state should support county data collection efforts as well as begin more thorough data collection at the state level.

While acknowledging the limitations of available data, *California County Data Book '97* is designed to help county and state decision-makers and all community members gain a better sense of how children are faring in their county and where people should focus their efforts to make the largest difference in children's well-being.

Interpreting & Using the Data

To understand how children in your county are faring:

- *Look at the trends in indicators.* In which areas is the county improving? In which areas are conditions for children worsening? Are there areas in which the outcomes have remained consistently poor?

- *Look at your county rankings compared to other counties.* In which areas is your county doing relatively well? What requires special attention? Are there any indicators for which the rank is significantly different from rankings in other areas?

- *Compare your county to similar counties.* If you live in a large urban county, you may want to compare your outcomes for children with another large urban county. If you live in a rural or suburban county, compare your county with a similar one.

- *Compare how well different ethnic groups fare in your county, where such information is available.* Does parity exist across ethnic lines? Do other counties close these gaps more successfully?

Please note that county averages may hide some important disparities among ethnic groups, children of various ages and different neighborhoods of the county.

Recommendations

In addition to gathering better information about children and families at a county level, state and county leaders could take many immediate steps to improve conditions for California families. The private sector and individuals also play important roles.

In 1997, California policymakers focused much attention on creating a new state welfare program in response to federal welfare reform. State legislators prioritized maximum work effort by those who receive public assistance and California's new welfare law contains stringent work mandates and time limits. However, lawmakers paid less attention to developing strategies to help families, once they are working, provide the basics for their children. In 1998, state leaders, county officials, the private sector and individuals will have the opportunity to act on their commitment to helping families achieve basic economic security so that their children may thrive.

STATE LEADERS have a number of unique opportunities to improve the lives of California children and families in 1998:

- **Insure all children.** The new Healthy Families program will offer subsidized health insurance coverage to about 580,000 of the 1.7 million uninsured children through age 18. However, increased efforts are needed to reach the over 500,000 children who are eligible but unenrolled in Medi-Cal, virtually all of whom are from working families. In addition, new public/private sector approaches must be developed to insure the 500,000 uninsured children who are ineligible for subsidized coverage.

- **Expand child care.** Even with the additional funds allocated in the 1997-98 state budget for child care expansion, California will not even meet half the estimated need for subsidized care. Additional investment will be required to pay for quality child care. Special efforts should be undertaken to address the lack of infant care, school-aged care and care on evenings and weekends. Universally available preschool would increase the kindergarten-readiness of all children.

- **Enact a refundable state Earned Income Credit (EIC).** California should utilize a portion of the new revenues generated by the strong economy to enact a refundable state EIC, which rewards work and helps low-income families make ends meet. Approximately two million California families would benefit through a state supplement to the federal EIC.

- **Improve child support enforcement.** The Legislature must ensure that a functioning statewide child support computer system is fully in place by early 1998; the program will not improve without appropriate management information. In addition, the Legislature should utilize standard data to evaluate the performance of all counties. Comprehensive data is the first step to creating an incentive system that rewards success and provides assistance to under-performing counties.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

- **Revise human service programs to better serve families.** As counties embark on developing their required County Plans in the coming months, they should:
    - Maximize community participation throughout the process -- in developing the initial plan, monitoring outcomes and deciding upon revisions.
    - Engage the private sector to help reach goals. Work with business leaders to help develop strategies to create and sustain living-wage jobs as well as expand the availability of quality, affordable child care.
    - Take the opportunity to reconsider family services beyond those that serve people receiving welfare. Engage the community in developing new ways to support all families who face challenges providing for their children.

- **Monitor child support enforcement.** County District Attorneys are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the child support program. The County Board of Supervisors must ensure accountability by actively monitoring the program's effectiveness and working with their District Attorney's office to improve performance in the program's troubled spots.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- The private sector can engage in local and statewide efforts to expand child care and increase the number of children with health insurance.

- Employers can provide livable wages and benefits for employees and their dependents.

- The private sector can participate in county-level planning to redesign human service programs to support families.

ALL CALIFORNIANS

- Individuals can communicate priorities and share experiences with elected representatives. Voters can select candidates who demonstrate a commitment to helping families provide for their children.

- Individuals can help families in their own community by volunteering time and/or donating resources.

- Individuals and community groups can convey to the media the importance of local coverage of these issues.

- Community members can participate in county-level planning to redesign human service programs to support families.

The Children of

CALIFORNIA

Highlights

California is one of the nation's largest and most diverse states. One in eight U.S. children currently reside in California and it is predicted that by the year 2025, one in five of the nation's children will call California home. California's economy is booming such that the gross state product surpassed $1 trillion this year, yet a large percentage of children are from low-income or extremely poor families. Many California families are squeezed by housing and child care costs, especially those in high cost counties.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	33,863,639	9,456,115	
	Anglo	17,787,715	3,880,594	41%
	African-American	2,330,391	726,955	8%
	Latino	10,114,228	3,814,949	40%
	Asian/Other	3,631,305	1,033,617	11%
	Number of births	560,370		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	45%	n/a	46%
	Children receiving AFDC	21%	20%	19%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			7
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			35%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			n/a
	Child care/month - infant			$585
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$407
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			48%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$78
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.0	4.8	5.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.0	6.2	6.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	6.8	7.0	6.3
	Anglo	6.2	6.8	6.0
	African-American	15.5	15.2	14.1
	Latino	6.4	6.3	5.8
	Asian/Other	4.5	4.9	4.5
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	70	68	64
	Anglo	36	35	32
	African-American	99	94	88
	Latino	118	116	110
	Asian/Other	32	33	31
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			57.3%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.9	4.4	3.9
	Anglo	3.0	2.7	2.4
	African-American	8.1	7.6	6.6
	Latino	7.3	6.3	5.6
	Asian/Other	3.0	2.6	2.4
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	32	35	35
	Anglo	35	39	40
	African-American	27	29	27
	Latino	20	23	22
	Asian/Other	47	50	52
	Average class size	29.0	29.1	29.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,287
	Students with limited English proficiency			24%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	664,294	690,005	706,918
	Rate per 1,000	74	75	75
Foster Care	Number of children	86,728	91,482	93,159
	Rate per 1,000	9.7	10.0	9.9
	Avg. months in placement	25.3 mo.	25.0 mo.	26.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	471	488	n/a
	Injuries	1,507	1,393	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		519	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		3,613,284	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		74	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

Family Economics

- Eighteen (18) counties have unemployment rates of over 10 percent.
- Child support enforcement varies widely from county to county. The average county collects just $78 monthly for each child support order.

Health

- California's infant mortality rate dropped considerably since 1990, however, birth outcomes have not improved: the percent of low birthweight infants remains about the same.
- The teen birth rate in California has decreased for all ethnicities.

Education

- There has been steady improvement in the high school dropout rate for students of all ethnicities.
- Even with increased school spending, California still spends $1,000 less per pupil than the national average.

Safety

- After climbing steadily for over a decade, the child abuse rate leveled off in the past two years. The number of child abuse reports is still very high at over 700,000 in 1996.
- The number of children injured by guns decreased between 1994 and 1995, while the number of children killed increased.

The Children of

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Highlights

With one of California's largest child populations, **Alameda County** ranks well above the state average in the establishment of child support orders for children who need them. Alameda County has an immunization rate which is higher than the state average, a high percentage of pregnant women who seek timely prenatal care and one of the lowest child abuse rates in California. Alameda has one of the highest foster care rates and longest average months in placement among the counties.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,394,651	364,694	
	Anglo	664,032	140,698	39%
	African-American	245,542	74,078	20%
	Latino	225,370	77,878	21%
	Asian/Other	259,707	72,040	20%
	Number of births	20,858		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	36%	n/a	36%
	Children receiving AFDC	21%	20%	19%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			20%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$794
	Child care/month - infant			$689
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$481
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			5%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			83%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$103

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.2	2.7	3.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.8	7.5	6.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.2	6.4	5.4
	Anglo	4.1	5.7	4.4
	African-American	13.8	11.3	11.5
	Latino	5.7	3.7	4.4
	Asian/Other	2.8	6.0	2.9
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	54	50	50
	Anglo	25	23	25
	African-American	98	91	85
	Latino	92	87	95
	Asian/Other	26	22	21
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			66.4%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.9	4.3	3.7
	Anglo	1.8	2.3	1.6
	African-American	6.8	8.1	7.5
	Latino	7.3	6.4	5.7
	Asian/Other	2.3	2.6	2.2
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	37	35	36
	Anglo	35	39	41
	African-American	39	19	18
	Latino	20	21	19
	Asian/Other	50	46	51
	Average class size	28.6	28.4	28.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,519
	Students with limited English proficiency			18%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	19,465	19,176	14,120
	Rate per 1,000	56	54	39
Foster Care	Number of children	3,612	3,789	3,885
	Rate per 1,000	10.4	10.6	10.7
	Avg. months in placement	29.0 mo.	31.9 mo.	35.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	17	14	n/a
	Injuries	41	45	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		22	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		137,591	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		74	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	25 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	32 / 58
Unemployment rate	11 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	14 / 58
Fair market rent	49 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	33 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	48 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	12 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	4 / 58
$ collected	15 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	5 / 46
Low birthweight infants	45 / 46
Infant mortality	17 / 46
Teen births	17 / 46
Immunizations	4 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	39 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	42 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	14 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	5 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	47 / 54
months in placement	49 / 57
Youth arrests	25 / 58

The Children of

ALPINE COUNTY

Highlights

Alpine County has high percentages of low-income and extremely poor children and an unemployment rate which is more than three times the state average. While there are no high schools in Alpine County, younger students there experience some of the smallest class sizes and the highest per pupil expenditure in California.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,283	362	
	Anglo	812	203	56%
	African-American	5	0	0%
	Latino	88	28	8%
	Asian/Other	378	131	36%
	Number of births	7		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	48%	n/a	54%
	Children receiving AFDC	27%	28%	25%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			19.5%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			1
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			33%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$505
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$390
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			78%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$102

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	0.0	0.0	18.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Anglo	0.0	0.0	0.0
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	0	30	105
	Anglo	0	0	0
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	0	0	0
	Asian/Other	0	48	174
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Anglo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Asian/Other	n/a	n/a	n/a
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Anglo	n/a	n/a	n/a
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Asian/Other	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Average class size	21.6	20.3	15.7
	Per pupil expenditure			$8,818
	Students with limited English proficiency			0%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	78	114	115
	Rate per 1,000	227	330	318
Foster Care	Number of children	15	12	7
	Rate per 1,000	43.7	34.8	19.3
	Avg. months in placement	17.4 mo.	23.9 mo.	15.7 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		159	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		176	n/a
	Percent drug-related		29%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		0%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	47 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	46 / 58
Unemployment rate	57 / 58
Job seekers per new job	1 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	36 / 58
Fair market rent	15 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	28 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	7 / 58
$ collected	16 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	NR
Grads prepared for college	NR
Average class size	2 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	1 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	NR
Foster care:	
rate	NR
months in placement	NR
Youth arrests	57 / 58

The Children of

AMADOR COUNTY

Highlights

Amador County has one of the lowest percentages of low-income children and extremely poor children in California. This county also ranks very well in the percentage of mothers who have more than twelve years of education and who seek timely prenatal care. Amador County has a very low high school dropout rate. From 1995 to 1996, rates for child abuse and foster care rose substantially.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	36,653	7,077	
	Anglo	30,786	6,261	88%
	African-American	1,737	43	1%
	Latino	2,963	500	7%
	Asian/Other	1,167	273	4%
	Number of births	274		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	24%	n/a	20%
	Children receiving AFDC	11%	10%	10%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			5.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			4
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			16%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$605
	Child care/month - infant			$563
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$368
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			75%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$99

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	1.8	2.2	2.8
	% Low birthweight infants*	2.9	4.7	5.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	7.3	10.9	0.0
	Anglo	8.0	12.5	0.0
	African-American	n/a	n/a	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	41	39	40
	Anglo	45	35	34
	African-American	0	0	200
	Latino	33	58	79
	Asian/Other	0	79	56
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			64.2%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.0	1.4	1.0
	Anglo	2.1	1.4	1.0
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	1.2	1.9	1.8
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	14	27	36
	Anglo	14	27	35
	African-American	n/a	0	n/a
	Latino	0	7	44
	Asian/Other	50	67	38
	Average class size	25.9	26.4	26.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,646
	Students with limited English proficiency			1%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	394	404	485
	Rate per 1,000	60	60	69
Foster Care	**Number of children**	29	26	33
	Rate per 1,000	4.4	3.8	4.7
	Avg. months in placement	9.2 mo.	4.2 mo.	15.8 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		3,440	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		53	n/a
	Percent drug-related		15%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	4 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	7 / 58
Unemployment rate	18 / 58
Job seekers per new job	9 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	5 / 58
Fair market rent	32 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	20 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	20 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	14 / 58
$ collected	18 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	1 / 46
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	9 / 46
Immunizations	7 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	4 / 57
Grads prepared for college	48 / 57
Average class size	19 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	58 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	12 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	12 / 54
months in placement	1 / 57
Youth arrests	11 / 58

The Children of

BUTTE COUNTY

Highlights

Over 30 percent of **Butte County's** child population is extremely poor and parents leaving welfare roles will face some of the highest infant care costs in California, a higher than state average unemployment rate and eight job seekers competing for every new job. Butte County also has one of the highest high school dropout rates in California. While still higher than the state average, the child abuse rate has steadily improved over three years.

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	210,717	51,144	
	Anglo	176,994	37,690	74%
	African-American	2,611	838	2%
	Latino	20,331	8,307	16%
	Asian/Other	10,781	4,309	8%
	Number of births	2,540		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	43%	n/a	41%
	Children receiving AFDC	30%	32%	29%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			9.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			8
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			31%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$546
	Child care/month - infant			$719
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$325
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			7%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			42%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$84
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.8	5.8	5.8
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.5	6.2	5.2
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.7	6.4	10.3
	Anglo	7.4	7.1	13.0
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	7.7	2.9	5.4
	Asian/Other	11.6	7.8	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	57	47	53
	Anglo	46	38	43
	African-American	167	71	96
	Latino	100	70	90
	Asian/Other	125	129	128
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	6.6	4.9	5.2
	Anglo	6.3	4.2	4.3
	African-American	7.1	8.2	9.0
	Latino	8.5	8.7	8.7
	Asian/Other	7.7	5.8	8.1
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	33	32	36
	Anglo	35	32	38
	African-American	26	20	22
	Latino	19	31	29
	Asian/Other	32	43	26
	Average class size	27.8	27.7	27.5
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,033
	Students with limited English proficiency			10%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	9,722	8,833	8,546
	Rate per 1,000	199	177	167
Foster Care	Number of children	393	625	758
	Rate per 1,000	8	12.5	14.8
	Avg. months in placement	18.4 mo.	16.5 mo.	15.3 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	3	2	n/a
	Injuries	4	3	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		23,267	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		67	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	31 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	53 / 58
Unemployment rate	38 / 58
Job seekers per new job	27 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	29 / 58
Fair market rent	23 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	37 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	11 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	5 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	52 / 58
$ collected	27 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	26 / 46
Low birthweight infants	22 / 46
Infant mortality	41 / 46
Teen births	20 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	56 / 57
Grads prepared for college	20 / 57
Average class size	27 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	52 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	52 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	50 / 54
months in placement	5 / 57
Youth arrests	16 / 58

The Children of

CALAVERAS COUNTY

Highlights

Calaveras County ranks particularly well in mothers having more than twelve years of education and has one of the lowest teen birth rates in California. Calaveras County also has a low rate of children in foster care and a low average number of months that children stay in foster care placement. Per pupil expenditure in Calaveras County is one of the lowest in California.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	43,775	11,375	
	Anglo	37,131	8,992	79%
	African-American	469	148	1%
	Latino	3,740	1,317	12%
	Asian/Other	2,435	918	8%
	Number of births	379		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	30%	n/a	33%
	Children receiving AFDC	16%	15%	14%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			8.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			8
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			15%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$556
	Child care/month - infant			$537
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$368
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			55%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$71

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.7	5.5	4.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	3.4	6.6	7.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.6	21.1	13.1
	Anglo	6.3	21.5	14.8
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	31.3	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	38	33	38
	Anglo	44	33	39
	African-American	0	0	50
	Latino	13	25	29
	Asian/Other	13	52	34
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			49.3%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	1.7	2.5	2.2
	Anglo	1.6	2.6	2.0
	African-American	10.5	0.0	10.0
	Latino	2.2	2.9	2.1
	Asian/Other	0.0	1.6	7.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	28	29	22
	Anglo	28	29	23
	African-American	0	13	25
	Latino	22	22	14
	Asian/Other	19	33	0
	Average class size	26.9	26.6	25.3
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,784
	Students with limited English proficiency			1%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,318	1,219	1,255
	Rate per 1,000	130	115	110
Foster Care	Number of children	60	64	75
	Rate per 1,000	5.9	6.0	6.6
	Avg. months in placement	12.8 mo.	10.5 mo.	13.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		4,872	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		32	n/a
	Percent drug-related		12%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		2%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	18 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	22 / 58
Unemployment rate	36 / 58
Job seekers per new job	27 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	4 / 58
Fair market rent	25 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	16 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	20 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	39 / 58
$ collected	42 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	21 / 46
Low birthweight infants	29 / 46
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	4/ 46
Immunizations	31 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	11 / 57
Grads prepared for college	45 / 57
Average class size	20 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	57 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	41 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	27 / 54
months in placement	2 / 57
Youth arrests	3 / 58

The Children of

COLUSA COUNTY

Highlights

Colusa County has a very high percentage of low-income children, high unemployment and 13 job seekers competing for every new job. However, it also has lower average rents, lower costs for child care and a higher than average percentage of licensed center-based care for infants.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	19,237	6,590	
	Anglo	11,110	3,420	52%
	African-American	110	15	0%
	Latino	7,192	2,939	45%
	Asian/Other	825	216	3%
	Number of births	339		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	61%	n/a	62%
	Children receiving AFDC	14%	11%	10%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			14.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			13
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			54%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$470
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$277
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			11%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			58%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$89

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	13.6	11.1	8.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.9	5.1	8.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	9.3	6.0	6.3
	Anglo	16.1	0.0	7.9
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	5.2	10.1	5.6
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	69	75	70
	Anglo	38	58	51
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	110	94	100
	Asian/Other	26	73	0
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	1.3	2.0	1.5
	Anglo	0.3	0.5	0.8
	African-American	8.8	17.9	8.8
	Latino	1.8	2.9	1.7
	Asian/Other	3.1	0.0	2.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	26	25	31
	Anglo	30	29	39
	African-American	100	0	0
	Latino	14	20	19
	Asian/Other	57	27	67
	Average class size	22.2	23.2	21.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,245
	Students with limited English proficiency			30%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	504	468	415
	Rate per 1,000	85	75	63
Foster Care	Number of children	23	23	26
	Rate per 1,000	3.9	3.7	3.9
	Avg. months in placement	15.3 mo.	58 mo.	5.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	2	0	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		2,561	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		67	n/a
	Percent drug-related		5%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	56 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	12 / 58
Unemployment rate	53 / 58
Job seekers per new job	41 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	58 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	3 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	2 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	34 / 58
$ collected	23 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	7 / 57
Grads prepared for college	43 / 57
Average class size	7 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	29 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	19 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	10 / 54
months in placement	37 / 57
Youth arrests	16 / 58

The Children of

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Highlights

With one of California's largest child populations, **Contra Costa County** has a lower-than-average unemployment rate and fewer job seekers competing for every new job than the state average. Contra Costa, however, also has higher average rent costs and higher costs for child care. Contra Costa ranks very well in childhood immunization rates.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	909,585	234,041	
	Anglo	605,339	132,348	57%
	African-American	83,813	27,335	12%
	Latino	116,614	43,556	19%
	Asian/Other	103,819	30,802	13%
	Number of births	12,397		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	25%	n/a	27%
	Children receiving AFDC	15%	14%	13%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			18%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$794
	Child care/month - infant			$689
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$481
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			54%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$66
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.5	3.6	4.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.1	6.5	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.8	5.7	6.0
	Anglo	5.2	5.4	3.7
	African-American	8.3	9.5	20.2
	Latino	6.1	4.6	5.1
	Asian/Other	6.0	5.2	4.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	41	39	38
	Anglo	21	21	20
	African-American	102	91	82
	Latino	96	92	88
	Asian/Other	23	22	22
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			65.1%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.7	2.5	2.2
	Anglo	1.9	1.9	1.4
	African-American	4.6	3.6	4.8
	Latino	4.9	4.8	4.0
	Asian/Other	2.0	1.6	1.1
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	37	39	44
	Anglo	40	42	45
	African-American	11	20	30
	Latino	22	21	29
	Asian/Other	52	53	59
	Average class size	29.2	29.2	29.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,193
	Students with limited English proficiency			9%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	18,271	19,369	20,382
	Rate per 1,000	81	84	87
Foster Care	**Number of children**	2,252	2,200	2,154
	Rate per 1,000	10.0	9.6	9.2
	Avg. months in placement	26.3 mo.	33.4 mo.	33.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	13	11	n/a
	Injuries	33	39	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		6	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		98,967	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		68	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	8 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	18 / 58
Unemployment rate	7 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	11 / 58
Fair market rent	49 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	33 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	48 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	41 / 58
$ collected	49 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	13 / 46
Low birthweight infants	34 / 46
Infant mortality	14 / 46
Teen births	8 / 46
Immunizations	5 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	6 / 57
Average class size	52 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	35 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	22 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	41 / 54
months in placement	46 / 57
Youth arrests	19 / 58

The Children of

DEL NORTE COUNTY

Highlights

With a relatively high percentage of extremely poor children, **Del Norte County** also has an unemployment rate which is higher than the state average and 17 job seekers competing for every new job. Del Norte also has a slightly higher than average rate of students dropping out of high school and a lower than average percentage of high school graduates who are prepared for college.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	33,330	9,350	
	Anglo	21,731	5,073	54%
	African-American	1,912	270	3%
	Latino	6,168	2,062	22%
	Asian/Other	3,519	1,945	21%
	Number of births	307		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	43%	n/a	41%
	Children receiving AFDC	27%	27%	26%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			8.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			17
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			35%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$556
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			n/a
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			70%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$69

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	8.3	8.2	7.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.8	7.0	4.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.7	14.6	16.1
	Anglo	4.3	16.3	9.1
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	17.9	24.4	22.7
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	45.5
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	63	68	63
	Anglo	60	67	68
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	59	32	38
	Asian/Other	108	165	100

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2	59.8%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

DEL NORTE COUNTY

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	6.1	5.1	2.3
	Anglo	6.4	4.8	1.8
	African-American	11.1	18.2	12.5
	Latino	5.8	4.6	1.4
	Asian/Other	4.9	6.0	4.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	27	39	15
	Anglo	31	41	15
	African-American	n/a	50	0
	Latino	13	29	0
	Asian/Other	18	37	21
	Average class size	29.2	28.3	27.8
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,480
	Students with limited English proficiency			5%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,364	1,219	1,135
	Rate per 1,000	153	133	121
Foster Care	Number of children	77	101	112
	Rate per 1,000	8.7	11.0	12.0
	Avg. months in placement	30.0 mo.	14 mo.	12.6 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	1	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		3,949	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		52	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	31 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	46 / 58
Unemployment rate	33 / 58
Job seekers per new job	47 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	40 / 58
Fair market rent	25 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	NR
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	20 / 58
$ collected	46 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	15 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	49 / 57
Grads prepared for college	45 / 57
Average class size	41 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	15 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	44 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	47 / 54
months in placement	13 / 57
Youth arrests	9 / 58

The Children of

EL DORADO COUNTY

Highlights

El Dorado County has some of the lowest percentages of low-income and extremely poor children in California. El Dorado County also has one of the lowest teen birth rates in California. The high school dropout rate and percent of graduates prepared for college have both improved steadily. At the same time, class sizes have been growing each year.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	157,448	42,626	
	Anglo	138,081	35,506	83%
	African-American	755	222	1%
	Latino	13,829	5,582	13%
	Asian/Other	4,783	1,316	3%
	Number of births	1,702		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	20%	n/a	24%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	9%	9%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			5.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			17%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$639
	Child care/month - infant			$516
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$390
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			78%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$82

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.4	2.3	3.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.8	5.5	5.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	4.5	8.9	3.5
	Anglo	4.3	9.2	4.4
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	6.3	10.5	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	38	35	34
	Anglo	29	28	27
	African-American	0	32	0
	Latino	136	98	106
	Asian/Other	13	31	40
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.0	2.3	2.2
	Anglo	2.7	2.0	2.0
	African-American	0.8	4.2	2.2
	Latino	6.2	4.5	3.7
	Asian/Other	4.0	2.4	4.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	23	30	42
	Anglo	23	31	46
	African-American	0	20	30
	Latino	22	19	18
	Asian/Other	24	27	24
	Average class size	28.2	28.3	29.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,120
	Students with limited English proficiency			4%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	2,649	2,880	2,686
	Rate per 1,000	66	70	63
Foster Care	**Number of children**	221	214	250
	Rate per 1,000	5.5	5.2	5.9
	Avg. months in placement	16.8 mo.	25.9 mo.	17.0 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	2	2	n/a
	Injuries	2	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		18,427	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		70	n/a
	Percent drug-related		12%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	4 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	3 / 58
Unemployment rate	15 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	7 / 58
Fair market rent	35 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	12 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	28 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	7 / 58
$ collected	29 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	9 / 46
Low birthweight infants	22 / 46
Infant mortality	11 / 46
Teen births	4 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	28 / 57
Average class size	42 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	44 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	15 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	22 / 54
months in placement	15 / 57
Youth arrests	22 / 58

The Children of

FRESNO COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's largest and fastest growing counties, **Fresno County** has high percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, higher than average unemployment and 17 job seekers competing for every new job. Fresno County also has one of the highest infant mortality rates in California and a high percentage of low birthweight infants. While also higher than the state average, the teen birth rate has improved over the past three years in Fresno County.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	830,927	267,171	
	Anglo	370,805	82,173	31%
	African-American	39,823	14,357	5%
	Latino	331,070	129,703	49%
	Asian/Other	89,229	40,938	15%
	Number of births	15,315		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	57%	n/a	57%
	Children receiving AFDC	35%	33%	31%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			12.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			17
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			47%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$526
	Child care/month - infant			$546
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$407
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			6%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			71%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$73
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.6	4.3	3.7
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.4	6.8	6.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.4	9.3	8.3
	Anglo	6.3	7.5	10.2
	African-American	16.3	23.2	15.8
	Latino	7.0	9.1	6.6
	Asian/Other	7.1	8.3	7.5
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	101	95	89
	Anglo	44	44	41
	African-American	156	120	116
	Latino	135	130	125
	Asian/Other	123	103	83
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			48.9%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	5.9	5.2	4.8
	Anglo	4.3	3.5	3.1
	African-American	8.0	7.3	6.7
	Latino	7.4	7.0	6.2
	Asian/Other	4.9	3.5	3.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	27	32	29
	Anglo	36	40	39
	African-American	18	23	18
	Latino	14	20	17
	Asian/Other	40	42	40
	Average class size	27.8	28.0	27.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,263
	Students with limited English proficiency			27%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	21,733	22,399	26,547
	Rate per 1,000	87	87	99
Foster Care	**Number of children**	2,230	2,511	2,803
	Rate per 1,000	9.0	9.7	10.5
	Avg. months in placement	21.7 mo.	19.3 mo.	20.5 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	17	20	n/a
	Injuries	82	51	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		13	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		105,877	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		134	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		6%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	52 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	56 / 58
Unemployment rate	46 / 58
Job seekers per new job	47 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	54 / 58
Fair market rent	18 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	18 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	35 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	8 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	19 / 58
$ collected	37 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	14 / 46
Low birthweight infants	39 / 46
Infant mortality	42 / 46
Teen births	42 / 46
Immunizations	32 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	53 / 57
Grads prepared for college	38 / 57
Average class size	32 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	26 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	30 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	44 / 54
months in placement	16 / 57
Youth arrests	55 / 58

The Children of

GLENN COUNTY

Highlights

One of the smallest California counties, **Glenn County** has a high percentage of low-income children and an unemployment rate which is more than twice the state average. Glenn ranks extremely well in infant mortality rates and percentages of low birthweight infants. Glenn County also has one of the highest percentages of high school graduates who are prepared for college.

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	28,508	9,177	
	Anglo	19,292	4,926	54%
	African-American	156	29	0%
	Latino	7,074	3,112	34%
	Asian/Other	1,986	1,110	12%
	Number of births	479		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	51%	n/a	52%
	Children receiving AFDC	23%	20%	20%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			14.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			10
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			45%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$470
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			n/a
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			70%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$66

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.3	5.6	7.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	2.9	4.3	4.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	4.8	4.3	2.3
	Anglo	9.3	8.6	4.3
	African-American	0.0	n/a	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	59	61	60
	Anglo	37	40	48
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	93	126	96
	Asian/Other	143	35	50
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			59.6%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

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Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.5	4.6	4.7
	Anglo	3.5	2.8	4.9
	African-American	5.0	8.0	3.4
	Latino	2.5	8.1	5.0
	Asian/Other	6.7	7.8	2.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	34	46	44
	Anglo	39	54	51
	African-American	n/a	25	33
	Latino	23	30	31
	Asian/Other	26	38	40
	Average class size	24	24.5	24.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,266
	Students with limited English proficiency			17%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	1,096	1,108	1,042
	Rate per 1,000	126	124	114
Foster Care	**Number of children**	54	71	78
	Rate per 1,000	6.2	7.9	8.5
	Avg. months in placement	36.9 mo.	25.2 mo.	12.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		3,800	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		100	n/a
	Percent drug-related		4%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	48 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	33 / 58
Unemployment rate	54 / 58
Job seekers per new job	35 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	52 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	NR
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	20 / 58
$ collected	49 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	1 / 46
Infant mortality	2 / 46
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	16 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	45 / 57
Grads prepared for college	3 / 57
Average class size	11 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	25 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	42 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	33 / 54
months in placement	33 / 57
Youth arrests	46 / 58

The Children of

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Highlights

Humboldt County ranks very well in the percentage of child support cases with an established order as well as in the amount of money collected per order. Humboldt County has a slightly higher proportion of extremely poor children compared to the state average. The county's infant mortality rate is one of the state's highest.

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	133,252	35,596	
	Anglo	112,035	26,080	73%
	African-American	1,929	938	3%
	Latino	9,594	4,873	14%
	Asian/Other	9,694	3,705	10%
	Number of births	1,486		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	35%	n/a	37%
	Children receiving AFDC	22%	21%	20%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			9
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			23%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$559
	Child care/month - infant			$481
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$347
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			76%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$131
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.9	6.3	9.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.4	4.9	4.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	11.2	12.5	8.9
	Anglo	11.8	14.3	8.9
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	8.5
	Asian/Other	14.9	10.8	9.8
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	52	46	47
	Anglo	44	39	42
	African-American	38	69	53
	Latino	67	73	51
	Asian/Other	109	85	89
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	4.0	5.1	3.5
	Anglo	3.2	4.9	2.7
	African-American	14.5	5.1	4.0
	Latino	8.2	9.5	9.0
	Asian/Other	6.3	5.0	6.4
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	23	31	28
	Anglo	23	33	29
	African-American	13	14	14
	Latino	23	28	32
	Asian/Other	23	24	26
	Average class size	25.4	25.5	25.
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,298
	Students with limited English proficiency			3%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	4,679	5,842	7,043
	Rate per 1,000	134	165	198
Foster Care	**Number of children**	338	344	317
	Rate per 1,000	9.7	9.7	8.9
	Avg. months in placement	29.0 mo.	22.7 mo.	23.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	3	4	n/a
	Injuries	3	4	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		2	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		15,618	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		90	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	25 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	33 / 58
Unemployment rate	21 / 58
Job seekers per new job	32 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	21 / 58
Fair market rent	27 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	8 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	14 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	10 / 58
$ collected	5 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	34 / 46
Low birthweight infants	8 / 46
Infant mortality	45 / 46
Teen births	16 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	43 / 57
Grads prepared for college	41 / 57
Average class size	14 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	22 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	50 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	39 / 54
months in placement	34 / 57
Youth arrests	38 / 58

The Children of

IMPERIAL COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's fastest growing counties, **Imperial County** has high percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, a higher than average unemployment rate and 26 job seekers competing for every new job. Imperial also has lower costs for child care than other California counties and it has a high percentage of licensed center-based care available for infants. Imperial County has a higher than average percentage of mothers who do not receive timely prenatal care.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	140,594	47,516	
	Anglo	34,382	7,282	15%
	African-American	5,123	798	2%
	Latino	97,495	38,438	81%
	Asian/Other	3,594	998	2%
	Number of births	2,829		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	60%	n/a	56%
	Children receiving AFDC	31%	31%	29%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			24.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			26
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			37%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$518
	Child care/month - infant			$377
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$321
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			8%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			73%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$82

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	11.5	10.8	8.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.1	5.3	5.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.3	6.2	4.9
	Anglo	7.4	14.1	6.0
	African-American	0.0	23.8	0.0
	Latino	4.6	4.4	4.9
	Asian/Other	31.3	32.3	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	89	78	69
	Anglo	56	54	30
	African-American	122	160	84
	Latino	98	84	79
	Asian/Other	36	15	7
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			55.7%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.0	3.0	1.9
	Anglo	3.4	2.4	1.4
	African-American	11.1	5.1	6.3
	Latino	4.1	3.1	2.0
	Asian/Other	1.5	3.1	1.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	20	27	27
	Anglo	29	39	45
	African-American	22	55	18
	Latino	17	23	23
	Asian/Other	41	52	59
	Average class size	28.2	27.8	27.3
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,213
	Students with limited English proficiency			48%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	2,045	2,575	2,812
	Rate per 1,000	45	55	59
Foster Care	Number of children	189	207	198
	Rate per 1,000	4.2	4.5	4.2
	Avg. months in placement	29.7 mo.	40.1 mo.	24.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	3	2	
	Injuries	3	6	
Youth Homicides	Number		3	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		18,917	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		97	n/a
	Percent drug-related		14%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	53 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	51 / 58
Unemployment rate	58 / 58
Job seekers per new job	54 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	42 / 58
Fair market rent	16 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	1 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	10 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	4 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	18 / 58
$ collected	29 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	45 / 46
Low birthweight infants	8 / 46
Infant mortality	10 / 46
Teen births	37 / 46
Immunizations	22 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	26 / 57
Grads prepared for college	48 / 57
Average class size	28 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	32 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	8 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	12 / 54
months in placement	47 / 57
Youth arrests	43 / 58

The Children of

INYO COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, close to one-third of **Inyo County's** children are from low-income families. Inyo County also has a higher than state average infant mortality rate. Inyo County ranks very well in terms of per pupil expenditure and has shown steady improvement in the percentage of students who drop out of high school.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	19,509	5,663	
	Anglo	15,314	4,224	75%
	African-American	145	19	0%
	Latino	1,804	703	12%
	Asian/Other	2,246	717	13%
	Number of births	228		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	28%	n/a	28%
	Children receiving AFDC	15%	16%	14%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			10
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			25%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$535
	Child care/month - infant			$624
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$386
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			81%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$89
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	8.3	10.7	9.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	7.3	4.7	6.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	9.7	9.3	4.1
	Anglo	9.2	7.8	7.2
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	22.2	0.0
	Asian/Other	25.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	45	60	48
	Anglo	35	46	45
	African-American	1,000	0	0
	Latino	102	100	100
	Asian/Other	53	96	33
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			51.3%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.2	2.2	1.8
	Anglo	1.5	1.5	1.2
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	9.1	7.9	5.3
	Asian/Other	7.0	2.5	2.3
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	26	36	39
	Anglo	29	39	45
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	10	23	22
	Asian/Other	17	26	16
	Average class size	23.0	22.8	22.8
	Per pupil expenditure			$5,423
	Students with limited English proficiency			6%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	473	515	498
	Rate per 1,000	92	96	88
Foster Care	**Number of children**	19	16	15
	Rate per 1,000	3.7	3.0	2.6
	Avg. months in placement	22.9 mo.	28.9 mo.	10.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		2,217	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		102	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	11 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	22 / 58
Unemployment rate	29 / 58
Job seekers per new job	35 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	24 / 58
Fair market rent	21 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	27 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	26 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	6 / 58
$ collected	23 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	27 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	13 / 57
Grads prepared for college	20 / 57
Average class size	8 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	4 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	33 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	2 / 54
months in placement	19 / 57
Youth arrests	48 / 58

The Children of
KERN COUNTY

Highlights

With higher than average unemployment and 13 job seekers competing for every new job, **Kern County** also has high levels of low-income children and low average child support collections. In all health indicators — timely prenatal care, low birthweight infants, infant mortalities, teen births and childhood immunizations — Kern County ranks well below state averages. Although Kern County's three year average high school dropout rate is higher than the California average, overall dropout rates have improved since 1994.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	688,607	223,645	
	Anglo	381,941	103,670	46%
	African-American	40,914	13,587	6%
	Latino	236,490	97,469	44%
	Asian/Other	29,262	8,919	4%
	Number of births	12,202		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	50%	n/a	51%
	Children receiving AFDC	24%	24%	23%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			11.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			13
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			40%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$543
	Child care/month - infant			$585
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$425
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			66%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$57

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.3	8.5	10.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.9	6.5	6.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	10.8	11.2	10.9
	Anglo	11.0	10.6	8.3
	African-American	14.6	30.2	21.2
	Latino	10.6	9.1	12.5
	Asian/Other	4.2	11.2	4.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	95	95	90
	Anglo	68	70	57
	African-American	141	116	109
	Latino	130	131	133
	Asian/Other	37	43	40
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			39.5%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	7.2	4.5	4.4
	Anglo	5.9	4.1	3.6
	African-American	10.2	4.9	4.8
	Latino	8.6	5.3	5.7
	Asian/Other	6.1	2.6	2.1
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	20	17	17
	Anglo	25	21	23
	African-American	10	10	9
	Latino	12	10	9
	Asian/Other	28	26	31
	Average class size	27.8	28.1	28.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,212
	Students with limited English proficiency			18%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	9,856	8,383	13,491
	Rate per 1,000	47	39	60
Foster Care	**Number of children**	1,547	1,662	1,701
	Rate per 1,000	7.4	7.7	7.6
	Avg. months in placement	34.5 mo.	35 mo.	36.2mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	9	9	n/a
	Injuries	29	27	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		10	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		86,031	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		52	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	43 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	42 / 58
Unemployment rate	45 / 58
Job seekers per new job	41 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	48 / 58
Fair market rent	22 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	22 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	37 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	25 / 58
$ collected	55 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	41 / 46
Low birthweight infants	43 / 46
Infant mortality	45 / 46
Teen births	41 / 46
Immunizations	36 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	55 / 57
Grads prepared for college	56 / 57
Average class size	35 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	33 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	5 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	33 / 54
months in placement	51 / 57
Youth arrests	9 / 58

The Children of

KINGS COUNTY

Highlights

Kings County has a high percentage of low-income children, high unemployment and 18 job seekers competing for every new job. The average cost of preschool care in Kings County is much lower than in the majority of California counties. Kings County has one of the highest teen birth rates in California and the longest average placement for children in foster care.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	119,922	37,947	
	Anglo	59,637	16,374	43%
	African-American	9,904	2,469	7%
	Latino	45,178	17,151	45%
	Asian/Other	5,203	1,953	5%
	Number of births	2,266		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	54%	n/a	53%
	Children receiving AFDC	23%	22%	21%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			12.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			18
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			40%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$501
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$282
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			74%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$72

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	7.5	7.1	7.8
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.0	6.1	5.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.5	9.0	6.1
	Anglo	5.3	7.7	7.0
	African-American	25.2	9.7	26.1
	Latino	6.2	10.8	3.8
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	103	100	95
	Anglo	68	75	61
	African-American	106	104	118
	Latino	145	130	134
	Asian/Other	49	65	46

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 52.1%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.3	2.4	2.6
	Anglo	1.0	1.2	1.3
	African-American	2.2	1.5	2.9
	Latino	3.6	4.1	3.8
	Asian/Other	2.8	0.8	2.7
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	29	32	32
	Anglo	36	39	42
	African-American	31	22	27
	Latino	17	22	19
	Asian/Other	45	52	36
	Average class size	27.3	27.4	27.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,221
	Students with limited English proficiency			16%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	2,815	2,987	4,029
	Rate per 1,000	79	82	106
Foster Care	**Number of children**	194	215	216
	Rate per 1,000	5.4	5.9	5.7
	Avg. months in placement	46.1 mo.	24.5 mo.	38.8 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	1	n/a
	Injuries	1	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		14,660	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		199	n/a
	Percent drug-related		5%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	51 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	36 / 58
Unemployment rate	48 / 58
Job seekers per new job	49 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	48 / 58
Fair market rent	13 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	5 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	16 / 58
$ collected	39 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	38 / 46
Low birthweight infants	31 / 46
Infant mortality	35 / 46
Teen births	46 / 46
Immunizations	26 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	33 / 57
Average class size	24 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	31 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	27 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	24 / 54
months in placement	54 / 57
Youth arrests	58 / 58

The Children of

LAKE COUNTY

Highlights

Lake County has one of the highest percentages of extremely poor children in California. It also has an unemployment rate which is higher than the state average and 14 job seekers competing for every new job. Lake County offers more licensed center-based infant care than most other counties. Lake County has a high percentage of mothers who do not seek timely prenatal care and has one of California's highest rates of child abuse.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	61,400	15,307	
	Anglo	52,196	11,884	78%
	African-American	1,223	336	2%
	Latino	5,726	2,374	16%
	Asian/Other	2,255	713	5%
	Number of births	662		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	52%	n/a	53%
	Children receiving AFDC	33%	32%	30%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			10.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			14
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			31%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$570
	Child care/month - infant			$464
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$347
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			11%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			51%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$83

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	7.6	7.6	11.9
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.5	4.9	6.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.3	10.7	3.0
	Anglo	4.0	11.7	4.0
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	11.0	10.2	0.0
	Asian/Other	35.7	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	61	71	58
	Anglo	58	63	51
	African-American	24	89	96
	Latino	81	100	91
	Asian/Other	79	115	83
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.9	3.7	3.8
	Anglo	3.5	3.2	3.3
	African-American	7.0	9.1	6.6
	Latino	6.5	5.6	6.8
	Asian/Other	4.5	6.1	5.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	25	30	32
	Anglo	25	31	33
	African-American	20	55	18
	Latino	28	23	27
	Asian/Other	25	22	27
	Average class size	24.7	24.9	24.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,291
	Students with limited English proficiency			4%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,647	3,201	3,059
	Rate per 1,000	114	216	200
Foster Care	Number of children	126	151	132
	Rate per 1,000	8.7	10.2	8.6
	Avg. months in placement	16.7 mo.	23.2 mo.	22.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	2	n/a
	Injuries	0	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		6,579	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		81	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	48 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	55 / 58
Unemployment rate	41 / 58
Job seekers per new job	46 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	29 / 58
Fair market rent	28 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	7 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	14 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	2 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	45 / 58
$ collected	28 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	43 / 46
Low birthweight infants	22 / 46
Infant mortality	26 / 46
Teen births	26 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	35 / 57
Grads prepared for college	38 / 57
Average class size	13 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	23 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	51 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	38 / 54
months in placement	17 / 57
Youth arrests	30 / 58

The Children of

LASSEN COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's fastest growing counties, **Lassen County** ranks close to state averages on many indicators. Lassen, however, has a low percentage of high school graduates who are prepared for college. Lassen also has a higher than state average rate of child abuse and a high rate of children in foster care.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	33,758	7,401	
	Anglo	24,915	6,137	83%
	African-American	2,967	65	1%
	Latino	4,580	835	11%
	Asian/Other	1,296	364	5%
	Number of births	286		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	29%	n/a	32%
	Children receiving AFDC	25%	24%	22%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			6
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			22%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$480
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$347
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			74%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$93

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.8	4.6	8.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	3.5	6.9	6.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	9.5	6.5	10.1
	Anglo	11.8	8.2	12.7
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	62	59	65
	Anglo	58	55	60
	African-American	77	143	250
	Latino	118	81	63
	Asian/Other	55	74	71

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 56.4%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.1	2.1	1.6
	Anglo	1.6	2.0	0.7
	African-American	10.3	0.0	0.0
	Latino	4.0	2.2	5.6
	Asian/Other	5.3	2.9	7.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	12	25	31
	Anglo	12	26	35
	African-American	0	0	13
	Latino	15	29	0
	Asian/Other	9	7	0
	Average class size	25.0	23.7	23.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,551
	Students with limited English proficiency			2%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	1,270	1,383	1,467
	Rate per 1,000	176	189	198
Foster Care	**Number of children**	103	94	100
	Rate per 1,000	14.3	12.8	13.5
	Avg. months in placement	18.3 mo.	17.4 mo.	14.7 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		3,642	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		98	n/a
	Percent drug-related		4%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	14 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	42 / 58
Unemployment rate	32 / 58
Job seekers per new job	18 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	18 / 58
Fair market rent	10 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	14 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	16 / 58
$ collected	20 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	21 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	8 / 57
Grads prepared for college	51 / 57
Average class size	10 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	13 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	53 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	51 / 54
months in placement	6 / 57
Youth arrests	45 / 58

The Children of

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Highlights

With California's largest child population, **Los Angeles County** has one of the lowest percentages of child support orders established. While significant improvements have been made, Los Angeles County still has one of the highest rates of students dropping out of high school. Yet, Los Angeles has a higher than state average percentage of high school graduates who are prepared for college. The average class size in Los Angeles County is among the state's largest.

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	9,636,490	2,721,636	
	Anglo	3,385,675	612,222	22%
	African-American	950,120	288,663	11%
	Latino	4,195,700	1,537,371	56%
	Asian/Other	1,104,995	283,380	10%
	Number of births	178,940		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	58%	n/a	59%
	Children receiving AFDC	25%	24%	23%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			9
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			43%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$854
	Child care/month - infant			$550
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$386
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			35%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$71

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.5	3.9	3.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.2	6.4	6.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.3	6.9	6.7
	Anglo	6.4	7.2	6.7
	African-American	16.2	16.4	15.2
	Latino	6.4	5.9	5.8
	Asian/Other	5.2	3.6	4.8
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	80	78	75
	Anglo	29	28	26
	African-American	97	92	88
	Latino	114	112	108
	Asian/Other	16	16	16

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 37.2%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

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Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	7.1	6.5	5.4
	Anglo	3.6	3.2	2.6
	African-American	11.0	10.6	8.9
	Latino	8.7	7.8	6.5
	Asian/Other	3.5	3.1	2.7
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	36	40	40
	Anglo	39	45	45
	African-American	35	41	39
	Latino	26	28	30
	Asian/Other	57	60	62
	Average class size	29.6	29.7	29.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,428
	Students with limited English proficiency			36%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	164,716	180,586	191,921
	Rate per 1,000	64	68	71
Foster Care	Number of children	41,085	43,483	44,864
	Rate per 1,000	15.9	16.5	16.5
	Avg. months in placement	24.0 mo.	24.7 mo.	26.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	218	238	n/a
	Injuries	738	705	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		270	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		986,857	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		57	n/a
	Percent drug-related		11%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		13%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	54 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	42 / 58
Unemployment rate	25 / 58
Job seekers per new job	32 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	50 / 58
Fair market rent	53 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	19 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	26 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	56 / 58
$ collected	42 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	15 / 46
Low birthweight infants	35 / 46
Infant mortality	29 / 46
Teen births	35 / 46
Immunizations	37 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	57 / 57
Grads prepared for college	8 / 57
Average class size	55 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	18 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	17 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	53 / 54
months in placement	34 / 57
Youth arrests	13 / 58

The Children of

MADERA COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's fastest growing counties, **Madera County** has a high percentage of low-income children, high unemployment and 21 job seekers competing for every new job. While improvements have been made since 1994, Madera still has one of California's highest dropout rates and a high percentage of births to mothers with less than twelve years education.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	118,544	35,537	
	Anglo	63,349	15,012	42%
	African-American	4,606	793	2%
	Latino	47,792	18,994	53%
	Asian/Other	2,797	738	2%
	Number of births	1,987		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	52%	n/a	54%
	Children receiving AFDC	22%	24%	23%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			13.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			21
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			48%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$526
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$347
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			68%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$90
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.7	6.6	6.7
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.0	4.8	5.8
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	8.0	8.2	7.0
	Anglo	4.5	4.4	7.7
	African-American	27.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	9.6	11.2	6.5
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	15.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	96	92	88
	Anglo	48	46	45
	African-American	81	130	105
	Latino	153	138	132
	Asian/Other	55	85	96
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			53.2%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	6.6	6.0	3.5
	Anglo	4.4	4.1	1.9
	African-American	6.1	5.3	4.9
	Latino	9.2	8.3	5.2
	Asian/Other	3.2	4.6	1.4
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	33	28	33
	Anglo	40	33	39
	African-American	15	23	30
	Latino	23	22	23
	Asian/Other	35	29	54
	Average class size	28.8	29.0	28.5
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,143
	Students with limited English proficiency			25%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	3,289	3,570	4,010
	Rate per 1,000	99	104	113
Foster Care	Number of children	153	177	134
	Rate per 1,000	4.6	5.2	3.8
	Avg. months in placement	24.3 mo.	26.6 mo.	21.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	2	4	n/a
	Injuries	4	3	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		14,872	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		83	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	50 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	37 / 58
Unemployment rate	49 / 58
Job seekers per new job	52 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	55 / 58
Fair market rent	18 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	14 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	23 / 58
$ collected	22 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	28 / 46
Low birthweight infants	17 / 46
Infant mortality	38 / 46
Teen births	40 / 46
Immunizations	25 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	53 / 57
Grads prepared for college	33 / 57
Average class size	47 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	41 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	35 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	15 / 54
months in placement	30 / 57
Youth arrests	32 / 58

The Children of

MARIN COUNTY

Highlights

Marin County has the lowest percentage of low-income and extremely poor children of all California counties. Marin County also has the highest average cost for preschool care and very high costs for rent and infant care. Marin County ranks very well on many family economic, health, education and safety indicators. However, Marin has one of the highest youth arrest rates in the state.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	245,593	55,237	
	Anglo	203,300	44,141	80%
	African-American	8,252	1,795	3%
	Latino	22,906	6,598	12%
	Asian/Other	11,135	2,703	5%
	Number of births	2,686		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	14%	n/a	14%
	Children receiving AFDC	6%	5%	5%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			2.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			2
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			13%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$965
	Child care/month - infant			$754
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$555
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			86%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$149
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	1.5	2.6	3.7
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.5	5.7	5.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.1	5.1	2.7
	Anglo	5.0	4.6	2.1
	African-American	0.0	10.9	13.9
	Latino	11.6	7.8	4.1
	Asian/Other	4.9	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	22	22	17
	Anglo	12	11	5
	African-American	51	52	48
	Latino	109	114	103
	Asian/Other	9	9	12
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			74.6%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	1.5	1.6	1.2
	Anglo	0.9	1.2	0.7
	African-American	3.4	2.8	1.7
	Latino	5.8	4.3	4.4
	Asian/Other	0.9	0.9	0.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	45	47	47
	Anglo	49	51	51
	African-American	19	10	12
	Latino	14	17	21
	Asian/Other	52	55	55
	Average class size	26.1	25.8	26.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$5,338
	Students with limited English proficiency			9%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	2,356	2,017	1,968
	Rate per 1,000	44	37	36
Foster Care	Number of children	211	206	173
	Rate per 1,000	4.0	3.8	3.1
	Avg. months in placement	17.3 mo.	20.2 mo.	17.4 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	2	n/a
	Injuries	0	1	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		2	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		20,162	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		97	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	1 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	1 / 58
Unemployment rate	2 / 58
Job seekers per new job	2 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	2 / 58
Fair market rent	56 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	39 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	55 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	2 / 58
$ collected	2 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	3 / 46
Low birthweight infants	14 / 46
Infant mortality	5 / 46
Teen births	1 / 46
Immunizations	1 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	4 / 57
Grads prepared for college	2 / 57
Average class size	17 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	6 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	1 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	5 / 54
months in placement	7 / 57
Youth arrests	43 / 58

The Children of

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, **Mariposa County** has a lower than average percentage of low-income children. Mariposa offers the lowest cost preschool care in all of California. Mariposa County also has the lowest infant mortality rate in California and averages a relatively short length of stay for children in foster care.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	17,840	4,278	
	Anglo	15,527	3,521	82%
	African-American	186	41	1%
	Latino	1,079	372	9%
	Asian/Other	1,048	344	8%
	Number of births	156		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	23%	n/a	25%
	Children receiving AFDC	18%	17%	16%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			6
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			18%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$526
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$260
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			61%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$113

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.7	8.7	7.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	7.9	2.7	7.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	0.0	0.0	6.6
	Anglo	0.0	0.0	7.9
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	37	44	39
	Anglo	39	45	34
	African-American	n/a	n/a	0
	Latino	59	31	98
	Asian/Other	0	20	36
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			50.2%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.9	3.7	2.4
	Anglo	4.4	3.5	1.9
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	2.0	8.6	4.7
	Asian/Other	1.8	2.8	5.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	32	24	30
	Anglo	30	25	35
	African-American	0	50	n/a
	Latino	100	20	0
	Asian/Other	38	8	7
	Average class size	23.7	25.1	24.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,799
	Students with limited English proficiency			0%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	541	489	547
	Rate per 1,000	132	116	128
Foster Care	**Number of children**	11	32	39
	Rate per 1,000	2.7	7.6	9.1
	Avg. months in placement	5.5 mo.	20.2 mo.	15.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		1,940	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		49	n/a
	Percent drug-related		5%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	6 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	28 / 58
Unemployment rate	23 / 58
Job seekers per new job	18 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	11 / 58
Fair market rent	18 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	1 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	31 / 58
$ collected	9 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	1 / 46
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	29 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	30 / 57
Grads prepared for college	41 / 57
Average class size	12 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	10 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	43 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	29 / 54
months in placement	3 / 57
Youth arrests	7 / 58

The Children of

MENDOCINO COUNTY

Highlights

Mendocino County ranks close to state averages on many family economic and education indicators. The highest percentage of women who do not seek timely prenatal care is in Mendocino County and the county has one of California's highest infant mortality rates.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	90,740	24,611	
	Anglo	72,239	17,075	69%
	African-American	582	250	1%
	Latino	12,674	5,579	23%
	Asian/Other	5,245	1,707	7%
	Number of births	1,100		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	44%	n/a	43%
	Children receiving AFDC	22%	21%	20%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			8
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			32%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$610
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$3[illegible]
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			60%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$104

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	12.7	14.8	15.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.3	5.6	4.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	11.8	6.1	8.0
	Anglo	16.6	8.1	8.5
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	3.4	6.4
	Asian/Other	10.9	0.0	9.2
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	60	67	65
	Anglo	46	49	52
	African-American	71	105	83
	Latino	108	128	112
	Asian/Other	110	107	95
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.8	4.4	3.1
	Anglo	3.2	3.5	2.4
	African-American	3.6	13.5	0.0
	Latino	6.4	7.5	5.2
	Asian/Other	5.4	7.1	6.3
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	27	37	34
	Anglo	30	40	37
	African-American	44	17	50
	Latino	12	27	16
	Asian/Other	26	21	22
	Average class size	23.8	23.7	24.3
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,972
	Students with limited English proficiency			11%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	2,725	3,535	3,721
	Rate per 1,000	114	145	151
Foster Care	**Number of children**	265	274	284
	Rate per 1,000	11.1	11.2	11.5
	Avg. months in placement	32.0 mo.	26.4 mo.	24.5 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	1	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		11,044	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		100	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	34 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	33 / 58
Unemployment rate	25 / 58
Job seekers per new job	27 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	32 / 58
Fair market rent	33 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	19 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	32 / 58
$ collected	14 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	46 / 46
Low birthweight infants	17 / 46
Infant mortality	44 / 46
Teen births	27 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	35 / 57
Grads prepared for college	25 / 57
Average class size	9 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	8 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	45 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	49 / 54
months in placement	38 / 57
Youth arrests	46 / 58

The Children of

MERCED COUNTY

Highlights

With a high percentage of low-income and extremely poor children, **Merced County** also has high unemployment and 27 people competing for every new job. Merced County ranks well above the state average in the establishment of child support orders for children who need them. With one of the highest teen birth rates in California, Merced County also has one of the lowest percentages of high school graduates who are prepared for college.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	214,430	75,906	
	Anglo	105,195	28,719	38%
	African-American	8,805	3,048	4%
	Latino	77,359	32,698	43%
	Asian/Other	23,071	11,441	15%
	Number of births	4,006		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	62%	n/a	64%
	Children receiving AFDC	35%	34%	31%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			14.1%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			27
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			46%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$521
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$347
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			82%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$94

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	7.4	7.1	7.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.6	5.1	6.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.9	7.2	8.2
	Anglo	6.5	5.5	12.3
	African-American	17.6	17.4	5.8
	Latino	4.8	8.6	5.0
	Asian/Other	5.1	3.6	10.9
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	96	97	95
	Anglo	56	61	56
	African-American	125	93	125
	Latino	130	135	126
	Asian/Other	114	104	118

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 49.9%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.5	3.6	3.6
	Anglo	3.9	3.4	3.0
	African-American	3.7	3.9	6.8
	Latino	5.8	3.9	4.5
	Asian/Other	2.1	3.3	1.4
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	20	20	24
	Anglo	27	27	33
	African-American	28	17	22
	Latino	12	12	13
	Asian/Other	23	18	33
	Average class size	27.7	28.3	27.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,174
	Students with limited English proficiency			33%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	7,847	9,520	8,017
	Rate per 1,000	111	130	106
Foster Care	Number of children	473	362	360
	Rate per 1,000	6.7	5.0	4.7
	Avg. months in placement	24.7 mo.	19.4 mo.	18.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	2	2	n/a
	Injuries	9	9	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		29,856	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		119	n/a
	Percent drug-related		5%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	57 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	56 / 58
Unemployment rate	52 / 58
Job seekers per new job	55 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	53 / 58
Fair market rent	17 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	14 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	5 / 58
$ collected	19 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	37 / 46
Low birthweight infants	22 / 46
Infant mortality	33 / 46
Teen births	43 / 46
Immunizations	30 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	38 / 57
Grads prepared for college	55 / 57
Average class size	28 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	37 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	39 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	20 / 54
months in placement	17 / 57
Youth arrests	52 / 58

The Children of

MODOC COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest counties, **Modoc County** has a high proportion of low-income children and 31 job seekers competing for every new job. Modoc ranks low in the amount of money collected per child support order. Students in Modoc County are far less likely than students in other counties to drop out of high school and class sizes are lower than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	10,838	2,708	
	Anglo	9,336	2,154	80%
	African-American	126	51	2%
	Latino	856	339	13%
	Asian/Other	520	164	6%
	Number of births	124		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	54%	n/a	45%
	Children receiving AFDC	28%	26%	28%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			8.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			31
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			16%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$470
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			n/a
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			55%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$42
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.5	5.7	7.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	7.0	10.7	5.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	0.0	8.2	8.2
	Anglo	0.0	10.4	0.0
	African-American	0.0	n/a	n/a
	Latino	0.0	0.0	32.3
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	62	55	36
	Anglo	42	37	21
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	292	214	250
	Asian/Other	125	136	0
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			57.4%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	0.9	0.9	2.6
	Anglo	0.8	1.0	2.6
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	1.0	0.9	3.4
	Asian/Other	2.3	0.0	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	29	17	36
	Anglo	34	18	39
	African-American	0	0	n/a
	Latino	8	9	22
	Asian/Other	8	43	41
	Average class size	20.5	20.0	19.7
	Per pupil expenditure			$5,405
	Students with limited English proficiency			12%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	508	522	308
	Rate per 1,000	189	193	114
Foster Care	**Number of children**	3	5	1
	Rate per 1,000	1.1	1.9	0.4
	Avg. months in placement	30.8 mo	n/a	n/a
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	1	
	Injuries	0	1	
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		1,355	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		14	n/a
	Percent drug-related		11%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		0%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	43 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	46 / 58
Unemployment rate	33 / 58
Job seekers per new job	58 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	5 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	NR
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	39 / 58
$ collected	57 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	20 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	4 / 57
Grads prepared for college	43 / 57
Average class size	3 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	5 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	NR
Foster care:	
rate	NR
months in placement	NR
Youth arrests	1 / 58

The Children of

MONO COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, **Mono County** has a relatively low proportion of low-income and extremely poor children. There is, however, high unemployment in Mono and 13 job seekers competing for every new job. While Mono County establishes child support orders for a smaller than average percentage of child support cases, it collects one of the highest amounts per order in the state. Mono County has a high percentage of graduates prepared for college and a small average class

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	10,820	2,749	
	Anglo	8,683	1,993	72%
	African-American	53	20	1%
	Latino	1,597	579	21%
	Asian/Other	487	157	6%
	Number of births	128		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	25%	n/a	30%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	8%	8%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			15.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			13
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			32%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$725
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$477
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			12%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			40%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$133

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	8.0	7.9	7.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	8.0	7.1	8.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	7.2	0.0	0.0
	Anglo	11.0	0.0	0.0
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	20	30	32
	Anglo	10	24	27
	African-American	n/a	n/a	0
	Latino	107	83	79
	Asian/Other	0	0	0

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 62.8%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	2.8	5.6	2.8
	Anglo	1.5	3.0	2.2
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	10.3	24.4	9.1
	Asian/Other	9.5	16.7	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	28	38	54
	Anglo	28	41	53
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	0	0	33
	Asian/Other	67	43	100
	Average class size	21.7	21.3	20.7
	Per pupil expenditure			$5,269
	Students with limited English proficiency			8%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	163	220	220
	Rate per 1,000	64	83	80
Foster Care	Number of children	16	12	13
	Rate per 1,000	6.3	4.5	4.7
	Avg. months in placement	39.2 mo.	10.8 mo.	42.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		1,112	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		31	n/a
	Percent drug-related		12%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		0%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	11 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	3 / 58
Unemployment rate	56 / 58
Job seekers per new job	41 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	32 / 58
Fair market rent	46 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	47 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	1 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	54 / 58
$ collected	4 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	10 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	35 / 57
Grads prepared for college	3 / 57
Average class size	4 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	7 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	NR
Foster care:	
rate	NR
months in placement	NR
Youth arrests	2 / 58

The Children of

MONTEREY COUNTY

Highlights

Monterey County ranks close to the state average on many of the family economic and education indicators. A high percentage of births in Monterey County were to mothers with less than twelve years education. In terms of licensed center-based infant care, Monterey County offers less than most other counties. Monterey County has the lowest foster care rate in California.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	389,413	120,999	
	Anglo	190,697	49,445	41%
	African-American	22,779	6,402	5%
	Latino	145,601	57,861	48%
	Asian/Other	30,336	7,291	6%
	Number of births	7,168		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	46%	n/a	53%
	Children receiving AFDC	14%	14%	13%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			9
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			49%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$723
	Child care/month - infant			$485
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$425
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			2%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			50%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$100

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	9.4	7.0	7.8
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.0	5.8	5.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.1	5.8	5.7
	Anglo	8.1	3.1	7.6
	African-American	12.6	26.1	6.4
	Latino	7.1	6.4	5.6
	Asian/Other	1.4	4.1	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	85	82	76
	Anglo	39	31	27
	African-American	85	49	60
	Latino	130	141	127
	Asian/Other	55	26	41

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 64.2%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.5	4.0	3.6
	Anglo	2.6	2.9	2.0
	African-American	6.6	4.6	3.0
	Latino	3.8	5.0	4.8
	Asian/Other	3.2	2.6	2.5
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	28	29	32
	Anglo	38	38	44
	African-American	19	19	23
	Latino	19	19	20
	Asian/Other	36	33	48
	Average class size	27.4	27.8	28.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,365
	Students with limited English proficiency			34%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	8,592	9,757	9,142
	Rate per 1,000	75	83	76
Foster Care	Number of children	261	290	355
	Rate per 1,000	2.3	2.5	2.9
	Avg. months in placement	19.4 mo.	19.7 mo.	17.0 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	7	6	n/a
	Injuries	13	13	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		4	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		45,171	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		90	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics	
Low-income children	41 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	16 / 58
Unemployment rate	27 / 58
Job seekers per new job	32 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	56 / 58
Fair market rent	45 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	9 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	37 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	34 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	49 / 58
$ collected	17 / 58
Health	
Late/no prenatal care	40 / 46
Low birthweight infants	14 / 46
Infant mortality	21 / 46
Teen births	39 / 46
Immunizations	7 / 38
Education	
High school dropout rate	32 / 57
Grads prepared for college	36 / 57
Average class size	32 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	20 / 58
Safety	
Child abuse	20 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	1 / 54
months in placement	9 / 57
Youth arrests	38 / 58

The Children of

NAPA COUNTY

Highlights

With a relatively low proportion of low-income children, **Napa County** also has low unemployment and only two job seekers competing for every new job. Napa County ranks very well in the categories of low birthweight infants, students dropping out of high school, child abuse and juvenile arrests. There is, however, less licensed center-based infant care available in Napa County than in most other counties and Napa County has a very low per pupil expenditure.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	120,560	29,446	
	Anglo	92,973	19,645	67%
	African-American	1,374	425	1%
	Latino	21,585	8,277	28%
	Asian/Other	4,628	1,099	4%
	Number of births	1,459		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	29%	n/a	33%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	10%	9%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			2
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			30%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$696
	Child care/month - infant			$589
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$429
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			2%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			65%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$115
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.5	4.1	5.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.5	4.3	4.2
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	7.0	6.0	5.5
	Anglo	9.5	5.7	6.1
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	3.6	7.1	5.3
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	39	41	46
	Anglo	27	23	28
	African-American	43	0	19
	Latino	85	115	111
	Asian/Other	29	18	55
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	1.0	1.0	1.4
	Anglo	0.8	0.8	1.1
	African-American	5.9	0.0	2.2
	Latino	1.6	1.5	2.4
	Asian/Other	0.4	1.0	1.7
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	37	28	31
	Anglo	44	32	36
	African-American	25	0	0
	Latino	11	11	13
	Asian/Other	26	29	40
	Average class size	28.1	28.2	28.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,937
	Students with limited English proficiency			18%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	1,158	1,187	1,217
	Rate per 1,000	40	41	41
Foster Care	**Number of children**	143	150	169
	Rate per 1,000	5.0	5.2	5.7
	Avg. months in placement	32.0 mo.	31.9 mo.	25.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		12,570	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		36	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	14 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	3 / 58
Unemployment rate	7 / 58
Job seekers per new job	2 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	28 / 58
Fair market rent	42 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	23 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	40 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	34 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	26 / 58
$ collected	8 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	21 / 46
Low birthweight infants	2 / 46
Infant mortality	21 / 46
Teen births	11 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	2 / 57
Grads prepared for college	28 / 57
Average class size	39 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	56 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	2 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	18 / 54
months in placement	44 / 57
Youth arrests	4 / 58

The Children of

NEVADA COUNTY

Highlights

Nevada County has very low percentages of low-income and extremely poor children and has low unemployment. Nevada County ranks particularly well in the areas of teen births, infant mortalities, low birthweight infants and months that children are in foster care placement. However, Nevada County offers little licensed center-based infant care and collects far less than the state average in child support payments.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	96,305	23,125	
	Anglo	89,611	20,635	89%
	African-American	227	66	0%
	Latino	4,707	1,897	8%
	Asian/Other	1,760	527	2%
	Number of births	819		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	21%	n/a	20%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	10%	9%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.1%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			6
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			17%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$680
	Child care/month - infant			$520
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$368
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			1%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			67%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$62

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.9	3.6	3.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.9	4.3	4.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	3.4	4.8	3.6
	Anglo	2.6	4.0	4.1
	African-American	0.0	n/a	n/a
	Latino	12.5	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	71.4	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	29	31	28
	Anglo	26	25	27
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	66	103	41
	Asian/Other	15	44	30
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

NEVADA COUNTY

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.0	3.3	3.5
	Anglo	3.9	3.2	3.4
	African-American	0.0	5.9	10.5
	Latino	2.1	7.3	4.5
	Asian/Other	10.4	3.5	2.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	34	41	40
	Anglo	35	42	43
	African-American	0	13	8
	Latino	11	24	15
	Asian/Other	18	32	23
	Average class size	27.9	27.7	27.3
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,187
	Students with limited English proficiency			0%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,785	1,996	1,849
	Rate per 1,000	82	89	80
Foster Care	Number of children	68	81	90
	Rate per 1,000	3.1	3.6	3.9
	Avg. months in placement	15.9 mo.	17.4 mo.	16.4 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		10,700	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		79	n/a
	Percent drug-related		12%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	3 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	7 / 58
Unemployment rate	20 / 58
Job seekers per new job	18 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	7 / 58
Fair market rent	40 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	13 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	20 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	39 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	24 / 58
$ collected	54 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	7 / 46
Low birthweight infants	3 / 46
Infant mortality	3 / 46
Teen births	2 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	32 / 57
Grads prepared for college	8 / 57
Average class size	26 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	36 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	22 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	5 / 54
months in placement	4 / 57
Youth arrests	28 / 58

The Children of

ORANGE COUNTY

Highlights

With one of California's largest child populations, **Orange County** has a smaller than average proportion of low-income children and relatively low unemployment. Rents and the cost of child care in Orange County are higher than state averages and the class sizes in Orange County are among the state's largest.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	2,717,453	715,195	
	Anglo	1,678,344	349,626	49%
	African-American	44,853	13,871	2%
	Latino	708,050	271,603	38%
	Asian/Other	286,206	80,095	11%
	Number of births	49,757		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	34%	n/a	36%
	Children receiving AFDC	12%	11%	10%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			3.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			2
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			34%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$827
	Child care/month - infant			$607
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$442
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			51%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$74

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.2	3.9	3.9
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.2	5.2	5.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.9	6.0	5.6
	Anglo	6.0	5.5	6.4
	African-American	11.4	15.3	7.5
	Latino	5.8	6.4	4.9
	Asian/Other	4.8	4.9	5.3
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	62	62	57
	Anglo	23	23	21
	African-American	71	73	66
	Latino	151	150	140
	Asian/Other	19	20	20
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			55.7%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.2	2.7	2.7
	Anglo	1.7	1.6	1.6
	African-American	3.5	3.5	2.8
	Latino	6.4	5.1	5.1
	Asian/Other	1.4	1.2	1.2
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	33	35	35
	Anglo	37	40	40
	African-American	21	24	21
	Latino	14	17	14
	Asian/Other	43	46	47
	Average class size	30.4	30.7	30.3
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,060
	Students with limited English proficiency			30%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	38,758	34,541	31,847
	Rate per 1,000	57	50	45
Foster Care	**Number of children**	2,682	3,116	3,182
	Rate per 1,000	4.0	4.5	4.4
	Avg. months in placement	27.8 mo.	28.1 mo.	27.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	18	22	n/a
	Injuries	80	88	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		28	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		257,269	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		73	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		6%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	23 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	10 / 58
Unemployment rate	4 / 58
Job seekers per new job	2 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	37 / 58
Fair market rent	51 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	26 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	41 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	45 / 58
$ collected	36 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	15 / 46
Low birthweight infants	12 / 46
Infant mortality	12 / 46
Teen births	25 / 46
Immunizations	22 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	23 / 57
Grads prepared for college	20 / 57
Average class size	57 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	48 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	7 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	12 / 54
months in placement	39 / 57
Youth arrests	24 / 58

The Children of

PLACER COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's fastest growing counties, **Placer County** has very low percentages of low-income and extremely poor children. Placer County also has low unemployment and a low percentage of births to mothers with less than twelve years education. Placer County spends less per pupil than most other counties in California.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	218,446	58,775	
	Anglo	190,983	48,888	83%
	African-American	1,373	498	1%
	Latino	18,864	7,229	12%
	Asian/Other	7,226	2,160	4%
	Number of births	2,675		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	19%	n/a	19%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	9%	9%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			2
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			14%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$639
	Child care/month - infant			$659
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$472
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			44%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$111
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.3	2.9	3.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.6	5.6	5.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.6	4.1	6.3
	Anglo	7.8	3.2	5.5
	African-American	0.0	117.6	0.0
	Latino	8.7	5.0	13.4
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	38	36	36
	Anglo	29	28	29
	African-American	21	38	98
	Latino	113	104	94
	Asian/Other	36	30	35
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.0	2.5	2.1
	Anglo	2.6	2.4	1.9
	African-American	8.5	5.6	2.9
	Latino	6.4	3.5	3.4
	Asian/Other	1.6	0.8	1.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	32	36	38
	Anglo	32	36	39
	African-American	73	21	16
	Latino	21	25	22
	Asian/Other	40	56	56
	Average class size	28.0	28.1	28.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,962
	Students with limited English proficiency			3%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	4,752	3,399	2,994
	Rate per 1,000	86	60	51
Foster Care	**Number of children**	326	269	327
	Rate per 1,000	5.9	4.7	5.6
	Avg. months in placement	21.9 mo.	23.2 mo.	26.5 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	1	2	n/a
	Injuries	0	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		25,771	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		68	n/a
	Percent drug-related		11%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	2 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	3 / 58
Unemployment rate	13 / 58
Job seekers per new job	2 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	3 / 58
Fair market rent	35 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	31 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	46 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	51 / 58
$ collected	10 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	9 / 46
Low birthweight infants	8 / 46
Infant mortality	17 / 46
Teen births	6 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	37 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	54 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	14 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	20 / 54
months in placement	29 / 57
Youth arrests	19 / 58

The Children of

PLUMAS COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, **Plumas County** has a relatively low proportion of low-income children and offers some of the least expensive rents in California. While ranking close to state averages in many categories, Plumas County collects the highest amount per established child support order in California.

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	21,827	5,336	
	Anglo	19,685	4,451	83%
	African-American	156	53	1%
	Latino	1,175	527	10%
	Asian/Other	811	305	6%
	Number of births	182		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	31%	n/a	36%
	Children receiving AFDC	15%	15%	16%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			13
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			17%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$470
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$451
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			54%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$150
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	0.9	2.8	6.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	3.3	6.1	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	4.7	22.1	6.0
	Anglo	0.0	26.3	7.1
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	50.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	46	35	40
	Anglo	42	32	40
	African-American	333	0	250
	Latino	79	77	22
	Asian/Other	29	44	43
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

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Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.3	2.0	2.3
	Anglo	2.2	1.7	2.2
	African-American	7.7	10.5	5.6
	Latino	4.6	5.8	3.8
	Asian/Other	0.0	1.9	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	32	42	33
	Anglo	42	44	35
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	55	20	17
	Asian/Other	10	30	40
	Average class size	29.2	27.2	25.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,629
	Students with limited English proficiency			1%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	720	625	521
	Rate per 1,000	134	116	98
Foster Care	**Number of children**	27	30	33
	Rate per 1,000	5.0	5.6	6.2
	Avg. months in placement	32.3 mo.	19.5 mo.	23.6 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		2,610	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		70	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	20 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	22 / 58
Unemployment rate	29 / 58
Job seekers per new job	41 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	7 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	42 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	41 / 58
$ collected	1 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	11 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	23 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	12 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	39 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	23 / 54
months in placement	36 / 57
Youth arrests	22 / 58

The Children of

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's largest and fastest growing counties, **Riverside County** ranks close to state averages on most family economic and health indicators, except it ranks lowest of all California counties in childhood immunization rates. Average class size in Riverside is larger than most California counties. Riverside County has child abuse, foster care and juvenile arrest rates which are lower than state averages.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,555,244	497,556	
	Anglo	831,568	211,323	42%
	African-American	84,570	27,954	6%
	Latino	547,788	226,398	46%
	Asian/Other	91,318	31,881	6%
	Number of births	24,762		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	43%	n/a	49%
	Children receiving AFDC	17%	16%	15%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.2%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			7
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			34%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$582
	Child care/month - infant			$563
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$390
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			51%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$50
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.8	6.8	7.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.3	6.3	5.8
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.6	8.4	7.1
	Anglo	7.0	8.5	6.3
	African-American	25.5	17.6	14.9
	Latino	6.6	7.2	6.9
	Asian/Other	2.3	8.2	5.1
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	77	73	67
	Anglo	52	48	44
	African-American	85	92	91
	Latino	110	102	93
	Asian/Other	45	52	32
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			29.6%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.7	3.3	2.8
	Anglo	2.6	2.4	2.0
	African-American	3.8	3.7	3.4
	Latino	5.3	4.8	3.9
	Asian/Other	2.1	1.3	1.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	31	29	28
	Anglo	32	31	33
	African-American	28	20	23
	Latino	27	23	20
	Asian/Other	55	49	46
	Average class size	30.4	30.5	30.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,059
	Students with limited English proficiency			19%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	23,626	28,756	26,805
	Rate per 1,000	53	60	54
Foster Care	**Number of children**	3,014	3,193	3,433
	Rate per 1,000	6.8	6.7	6.9
	Avg. months in placement	17.3 mo.	18.9 mo.	20.5 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	26	13	n/a
	Injuries	49	43	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		17	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		185,378	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		44	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	38 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	25 / 58
Unemployment rate	27 / 58
Job seekers per new job	23 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	37 / 58
Fair market rent	29 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	20 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	28 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	45 / 58
$ collected	56 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	30 / 46
Low birthweight infants	33 / 46
Infant mortality	37 / 46
Teen births	34 / 46
Immunizations	38 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	29 / 57
Grads prepared for college	36 / 57
Average class size	58 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	49 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	10 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	30 / 54
months in placement	13 / 57
Youth arrests	6 / 58

The Children of

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Highlights

With one of California's largest child populations, over one-third of **Sacramento County's** children are in extremely poor families. Costs of child care in Sacramento County are higher than the state average. Sacramento County has one of the lowest percentages of child support orders established and higher percentages of low birthweight infants than most other counties. While it is still higher than the state average, significant improvements have been made in Sacramento County's high school dropout rate.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,216,048	330,982	
	Anglo	800,414	182,159	55%
	African-American	117,941	41,496	13%
	Latino	161,362	61,497	19%
	Asian/Other	136,331	45,830	14%
	Number of births	18,630		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	38%	n/a	43%
	Children receiving AFDC	32%	31%	30%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			5.7%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			25%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$639
	Child care/month - infant			$633
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$459
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			6%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			39%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$121
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.2	5.6	7.9
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.3	6.8	6.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.1	7.3	7.0
	Anglo	5.8	6.8	6.1
	African-American	16.1	12.5	14.0
	Latino	8.0	6.0	7.0
	Asian/Other	2.9	6.8	4.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	74	68	63
	Anglo	53	46	44
	African-American	123	116	101
	Latino	112	112	101
	Asian/Other	71	68	64
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			57.5%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	5.8	4.7	4.3
	Anglo	4.4	3.5	3.5
	African-American	8.7	7.1	5.9
	Latino	10.1	7.8	7.3
	Asian/Other	4.4	4.0	3.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	35	35	37
	Anglo	37	37	38
	African-American	25	24	25
	Latino	23	23	25
	Asian/Other	41	46	49
	Average class size	29.3	28.7	28.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,256
	Students with limited English proficiency			16%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	28,366	27,384	33,000
	Rate per 1,000	90	85	100
Foster Care	Number of children	3,076	3,146	3,034
	Rate per 1,000	9.7	9.7	9.2
	Avg. months in placement	30.8 mo.	35 mo.	35.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	15	14	n/a
	Injuries	67	47	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		20	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		132,096	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		62	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		9%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	29 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	53 / 58
Unemployment rate	16 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	24 / 58
Fair market rent	35 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	30 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	44 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	8 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	55 / 58
$ collected	6 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	29 / 46
Low birthweight infants	39 / 46
Infant mortality	33 / 46
Teen births	32 / 46
Immunizations	18 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	51 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	47 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	27 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	30 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	40 / 54
months in placement	50 / 57
Youth arrests	14 / 58

The Children of

SAN BENITO COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's fastest growing counties, **San Benito** has a relatively small proportion of low-income and extremely poor children, yet higher than average unemployment and 12 job seekers competing for every new job. San Benito County has very low percentages of low birthweight infants and a low percentage of students dropping out of high school. It also has one of the lowest foster care rates in California.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	44,348	13,691	
	Anglo	22,340	5,629	41%
	African-American	182	55	0%
	Latino	20,790	7,748	57%
	Asian/Other	1,036	259	2%
	Number of births	761		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	33%	n/a	36%
	Children receiving AFDC	15%	14%	14%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			11%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			12
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			38%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$659
	Child care/month - infant			$511
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$399
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			54%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$69

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.5	1.6	4.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.5	5.3	4.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	3.7	8.1	3.8
	Anglo	6.5	0.0	0.0
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	2.1	13.2	6.3
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	63	62	67
	Anglo	33	27	28
	African-American	0	0	63
	Latino	88	90	98
	Asian/Other	0	26	23
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			59.6%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	1.8	1.6	0.9
	Anglo	1.0	1.0	0.3
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	2.4	2.1	1.5
	Asian/Other	2.2	0.0	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	33	41	34
	Anglo	46	54	46
	African-American	33	0	0
	Latino	20	31	23
	Asian/Other	50	50	44
	Average class size	29.0	29.0	28.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,140
	Students with limited English proficiency			18%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	626	860	734
	Rate per 1,000	48	64	54
Foster Care	Number of children	39	51	56
	Rate per 1,000	3.0	3.8	4.1
	Avg. months in placement	40.4 mo.	11.3 mo.	37.6 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	1	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		5,727	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		82	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	20 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	18 / 58
Unemployment rate	43 / 58
Job seekers per new job	39 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	46 / 58
Fair market rent	39 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	11 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	33 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	41 / 58
$ collected	46 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	7 / 46
Low birthweight infants	4 / 46
Infant mortality	6 / 46
Teen births	27 / 46
Immunizations	16 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	3 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	46 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	42 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	9 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	5 / 54
months in placement	45 / 57
Youth arrests	31 / 58

The Children of

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Highlights

The largest (by area) county in the nation, **San Bernardino County** ranks close to state averages in many family economic and safety indicators. San Bernardino County ranks lowest, however, in establishing child support orders and has a high percentage of low birthweight infants. Average class size in San Bernardino County is large. While the percentage of high school students dropping out is close to the state average, the percentage of graduates who are prepared for college is very low.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,779,426	601,697	
	Anglo	951,581	267,506	44%
	African-American	145,606	55,008	9%
	Latino	576,391	244,160	41%
	Asian/Other	105,848	35,023	6%
	Number of births	30,921		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	43%	n/a	44%
	Children receiving AFDC	24%	23%	21%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			8
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			35%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$582
	Child care/month - infant			$520
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$381
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			25%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$110
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.6	6.9	7.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.6	6.6	6.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.9	7.9	7.7
	Anglo	7.5	7.1	6.5
	African-American	17.1	17.0	19.3
	Latino	6.8	7.5	6.6
	Asian/Other	3.3	2.7	5.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	84	80	74
	Anglo	56	51	46
	African-American	113	99	95
	Latino	123	114	111
	Asian/Other	41	72	33
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			42.9%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.7	3.9	4.7
	Anglo	3.7	3.0	3.8
	African-American	6.4	5.4	6.8
	Latino	5.9	4.9	5.5
	Asian/Other	3.4	3.1	2.5
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	21	23	23
	Anglo	24	26	27
	African-American	15	18	13
	Latino	15	15	15
	Asian/Other	38	42	41
	Average class size	30.0	30.3	30.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,086
	Students with limited English proficiency			15%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	50,725	48,273	48,825
	Rate per 1,000	93	83	81
Foster Care	Number of children	3,759	4,214	4,171
	Rate per 1,000	6.9	7.3	6.9
	Avg. months in placement	24.9 mo.	20.5 mo.	22.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	41	40	n/a
	Injuries	104	100	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		39	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		222,798	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		67	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		10%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	34 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	37 / 58
Unemployment rate	23 / 58
Job seekers per new job	27 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	40 / 58
Fair market rent	29 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	13 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	25 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	58 / 58
$ collected	11 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	33 / 46
Low birthweight infants	39 / 46
Infant mortality	38 / 46
Teen births	37 / 46
Immunizations	34 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	47 / 57
Grads prepared for college	54 / 57
Average class size	56 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	47 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	24 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	32 / 54
months in placement	23 / 57
Youth arrests	16 / 58

The Children of

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Highlights

With one of California's largest child populations, **San Diego County** ranks close to state averages on many family economic indicators. San Diego County ranks low, however, in establishing child support orders for children who need them. San Diego County's infant mortality rate is below the state average and its childhood immunization rate is significantly higher than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	2,825,270	737,157	
	Anglo	1,732,849	364,213	49%
	African-American	173,671	55,686	8%
	Latino	665,779	248,944	34%
	Asian/Other	252,971	68,314	9%
	Number of births	46,620		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	44%	n/a	47%
	Children receiving AFDC	19%	18%	17%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.4%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			6
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			28%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$682
	Child care/month - infant			$598
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$425
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			29%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$78
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	7.2	6.9	7.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.0	5.9	5.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	6.2	6.6	4.9
	Anglo	5.4	5.9	4.6
	African-American	15.0	14.4	10.8
	Latino	6.0	6.1	4.7
	Asian/Other	3.7	5.5	2.9
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	67	66	60
	Anglo	37	31	32
	African-American	105	108	93
	Latino	120	127	110
	Asian/Other	40	38	38
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			63%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	4.1	4.0	3.0
	Anglo	2.7	2.8	2.1
	African-American	5.0	5.1	3.6
	Latino	6.6	6.0	4.7
	Asian/Other	2.7	2.8	1.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	30	36	35
	Anglo	39	45	43
	African-American	14	19	18
	Latino	13	18	16
	Asian/Other	38	44	45
	Average class size	29.5	29.7	29.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,383
	Students with limited English proficiency			21%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	77,749	81,969	84,766
	Rate per 1,000	111	114	115
Foster Care	**Number of children**	5,654	5,913	5,693
	Rate per 1,000	8.1	8.2	7.7
	Avg. months in placement	25.0 mo	22.9 mo	25.9 mo
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	18	21	
	Injuries	75	51	
Youth Homicides	**Number**		19	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		288,106	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		75	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	37 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	29 / 58
Unemployment rate	10 / 58
Job seekers per new job	18 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	27 / 58
Fair market rent	41 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	25 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	37 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	57 / 58
$ collected	32 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	34 / 46
Low birthweight infants	31 / 46
Infant mortality	14 / 46
Teen births	27 / 46
Immunizations	9 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	34 / 57
Grads prepared for college	20 / 57
Average class size	54 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	19 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	37 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	35 / 54
months in placement	32 / 57
Youth arrests	27 / 58

The Children of

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

Highlights

With 50 percent of **San Francisco County's** children in low-income families, there are eight job seekers competing for every new job in the county. Rents and child care costs in San Francisco County are among the highest in California. A higher percentage of high school students drop out in San Francisco County than in most other counties, yet San Francisco County also has the highest percentage of graduates who are prepared for college. San Francisco County keeps children in foster care placement close to three years on average.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	758,975	136,827	
	Anglo	329,398	41,578	30%
	African-American	81,102	21,872	16%
	Latino	118,250	26,909	20%
	Asian/Other	230,225	46,468	34%
	Number of births	8,805		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	50%	n/a	49%
	Children receiving AFDC	20%	18%	16%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			8
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			23%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$965
	Child care/month - infant			$780
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$542
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			78%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$71

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.0	4.4	4.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.9	6.7	7.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.0	8.2	4.3
	Anglo	1.2	8.5	0.4
	African-American	14.1	13.9	10.8
	Latino	5.8	6.4	5.8
	Asian/Other	4.1	7.0	4.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	42	43	42
	Anglo	21	22	20
	African-American	94	96	78
	Latino	76	83	85
	Asian/Other	14	13	17

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 64.8%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	6.3	5.0	4.1
	Anglo	8.4	7.4	5.6
	African-American	11.4	9.6	7.8
	Latino	9.4	6.4	5.1
	Asian/Other	3.2	2.5	2.2
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	47	55	49
	Anglo	46	54	62
	African-American	23	38	27
	Latino	28	44	29
	Asian/Other	56	61	55
	Average class size	26.3	26.4	25.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,839
	Students with limited English proficiency			30%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	8,674	8,563	7,929
	Rate per 1,000	67	64	58
Foster Care	**Number of children**	3,722	3,301	3,231
	Rate per 1,000	28.9	24.8	23.6
	Avg. months in placement	37.3 mo.	34.5 mo.	35.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	5	2	n/a
	Injuries	26	21	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		6	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		49,501	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		88	n/a
	Percent drug-related		13%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		20%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	43 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	29 / 58
Unemployment rate	7 / 58
Job seekers per new job	27 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	21 / 58
Fair market rent	56 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	41 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	54 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	7 / 58
$ collected	42 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	18 / 46
Low birthweight infants	44 / 46
Infant mortality	12 / 46
Teen births	11 / 46
Immunizations	6 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	52 / 57
Grads prepared for college	1 / 57
Average class size	16 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	9 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	12 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	54 / 54
months in placement	52 / 57
Youth arrests	36 / 58

The Children of

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Highlights

With a relatively high percentage of extremely poor children, **San Joaquin County** also has an unemployment rate which is higher than the state average and 13 job seekers competing for every new job. San Joaquin County has a higher than average percentage of low birthweight infants. The percentage of students who drop out of high school in San Joaquin County is lower than the state average and the percentage of graduates who are prepared for college is also below the state average.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	562,508	172,401	
	Anglo	305,391	74,022	43%
	African-American	28,890	9,810	6%
	Latino	147,710	54,907	32%
	Asian/Other	80,517	33,662	20%
	Number of births	9,233		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	46%	n/a	49%
	Children receiving AFDC	30%	29%	28%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			10.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			13
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			37%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$614
	Child care/month - infant			$542
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$373
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			64%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$71
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.4	7.0	7.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.7	6.8	6.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	8.5	7.6	6.4
	Anglo	9.4	9.5	9.6
	African-American	15.6	7.8	6.2
	Latino	7.5	7.1	4.2
	Asian/Other	5.9	3.9	3.5
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	80	78	74
	Anglo	49	49	47
	African-American	156	140	157
	Latino	110	117	110
	Asian/Other	94	76	61
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	6.2	3.2	2.3
	Anglo	2.9	2.0	1.6
	African-American	11.5	4.9	2.4
	Latino	10.1	5.0	3.4
	Asian/Other	6.8	2.8	2.2
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	24	28	27
	Anglo	27	34	33
	African-American	17	14	15
	Latino	14	14	15
	Asian/Other	28	30	32
	Average class size	28.6	28.7	28.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,197
	Students with limited English proficiency			22%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	14,888	14,644	13,668
	Rate per 1,000	91	87	79
Foster Care	Number of children	1,664	1,627	1,534
	Rate per 1,000	10.2	9.7	8.9
	Avg. months in placement	28.9 mo.	33.1 mo.	32.0 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	11	10	n/a
	Injuries	28	29	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		12	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		71,303	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		87	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	40 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	50 / 58
Unemployment rate	42 / 58
Job seekers per new job	41 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	42 / 58
Fair market rent	34 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	17 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	24 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	28 / 58
$ collected	42 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	30 / 46
Low birthweight infants	39 / 46
Infant mortality	36 / 46
Teen births	35 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	27 / 57
Grads prepared for college	45 / 57
Average class size	45 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	34 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	25 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	41 / 54
months in placement	47 / 57
Youth arrests	34 / 58

The Children of

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Highlights

With a relatively low percentage of low-income children, unemployment in **San Luis Obispo County** is below the state average and average costs of child care are well below state averages. San Luis Obispo County ranks high in establishing child support orders for children who need them. San Luis Obispo County has a low percentage of low birthweight infants and one of the lowest teen birth rates in the state.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	244,715	55,388	
	Anglo	194,119	40,109	72%
	African-American	5,008	1,270	2%
	Latino	36,955	12,337	22%
	Asian/Other	8,633	1,672	3%
	Number of births	2,646		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	26%	n/a	29%
	Children receiving AFDC	12%	12%	12%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			23%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$704
	Child care/month - infant			$407
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$277
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			1%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			85%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$116

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.3	4.3	5.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.5	4.9	4.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	7.5	7.1	3.8
	Anglo	9.7	6.4	3.3
	African-American	0.0	29.4	0.0
	Latino	2.9	8.5	4.3
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	9.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	36	35	34
	Anglo	27	23	24
	African-American	40	21	54
	Latino	83	101	84
	Asian/Other	21	18	18

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 54.5%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.7	2.1	1.9
	Anglo	2.8	1.6	1.5
	African-American	7.1	2.1	3.1
	Latino	7.7	4.9	3.6
	Asian/Other	3.3	0.6	0.5
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	29	34	33
	Anglo	33	35	37
	African-American	5	81	19
	Latino	11	19	18
	Asian/Other	38	56	26
	Average class size	27.0	27.0	27.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,315
	Students with limited English proficiency			8%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	7,589	7,330	7,774
	Rate per 1,000	143	135	140
Foster Care	Number of children	317	333	391
	Rate per 1,000	6.0	6.1	7.1
	Avg. months in placement	28.9 mo.	17.6 mo.	19.0 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	1	n/a
	Injuries	3	4	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		2	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		25,571	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		63	n/a
	Percent drug-related		14%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	11 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	12 / 58
Unemployment rate	11 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	21 / 58
Fair market rent	44 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	5 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	3 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	39 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	3 / 58
$ collected	7 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	20 / 46
Low birthweight infants	5 / 46
Infant mortality	20 / 46
Teen births	3 / 46
Immunizations	24 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	28 / 57
Average class size	22 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	21 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	47 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	28 / 54
months in placement	21 / 57
Youth arrests	15 / 58

The Children of

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Highlights

With one of the lowest percentages of extremely poor children, **San Mateo County** also has low unemployment and only three job seekers competing for every new job. San Mateo County also ranks very well in childhood immunization and infant mortality rates. A high percentage of San Mateo County's high school graduates are prepared for college. The child abuse rate in San Mateo County is low. Rents and child care costs in San Mateo County are among the highest in California.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	711,002	164,120	
	Anglo	366,433	65,537	40%
	African-American	35,173	7,819	5%
	Latino	154,540	52,625	32%
	Asian/Other	154,856	38,139	23%
	Number of births	10,152		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	26%	n/a	27%
	Children receiving AFDC	8%	7%	6%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			2.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			3
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			21%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$965
	Child care/month - infant			$745
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$485
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			5%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			51%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$108

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.7	3.0	3.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.3	5.3	5.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	4.0	3.2	5.1
	Anglo	3.2	2.6	4.3
	African-American	14.8	6.8	20.5
	Latino	4.0	2.4	4.2
	Asian/Other	3.1	4.7	4.9
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	42	40	39
	Anglo	15	17	17
	African-American	60	55	55
	Latino	101	90	88
	Asian/Other	20	21	16
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			68.7%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	2.6	2.5	2.2
	Anglo	1.8	1.8	1.2
	African-American	3.7	2.6	3.7
	Latino	4.3	4.7	4.2
	Asian/Other	1.6	1.5	1.3
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	39	40	45
	Anglo	45	45	49
	African-American	20	25	18
	Latino	22	22	23
	Asian/Other	46	50	59
	Average class size	28.2	28.5	28.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,444
	Students with limited English proficiency			21%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	8,144	7,513	6,803
	Rate per 1,000	52	47	41
Foster Care	Number of children	644	588	533
	Rate per 1,000	4.1	3.7	3.2
	Avg. months in placement	21.9 mo.	23.2 mo.	25.3 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	8	4	n/a
	Injuries	5	6	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		4	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		63,859	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		79	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		6%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	8 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	2 / 58
Unemployment rate	1 / 58
Job seekers per new job	6 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	15 / 58
Fair market rent	56 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	38 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	50 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	12 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	45 / 58
$ collected	13 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	6 / 46
Low birthweight infants	17 / 46
Infant mortality	4 / 46
Teen births	9 / 46
Immunizations	2 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	13 / 57
Grads prepared for college	3 / 57
Average class size	40 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	16 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	4 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	8 / 54
months in placement	26 / 57
Youth arrests	28 / 58

The Children of

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Highlights

Santa Barbara County has relatively low percentages of low-income and extremely poor children. While Santa Barbara County establishes a fairly high percentage of child support orders for children who need them, the amount of money collected per order is below the state average. Santa Barbara County ranks close to state averages on many health indicators. Average class size in Santa Barbara County is smaller than in many other counties. The foster care rate is well below the state average.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	411,104	103,760	
	Anglo	252,264	48,429	47%
	African-American	10,393	2,978	3%
	Latino	128,296	47,629	46%
	Asian/Other	20,151	4,724	5%
	Number of births	6,021		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	37%	n/a	37%
	Children receiving AFDC	13%	13%	12%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.1%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			10
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			39%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$840
	Child care/month - infant			$628
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$399
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			76%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$64
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.2	4.3	5.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.2	5.4	5.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.4	5.0	6.7
	Anglo	6.5	6.6	6.2
	African-American	0.0	6.2	0.0
	Latino	6.5	3.7	7.0
	Asian/Other	6.2	6.0	10.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	66	60	52
	Anglo	24	19	17
	African-American	49	57	36
	Latino	137	129	110
	Asian/Other	44	47	36
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			62.8%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	2.6	3.2	2.8
	Anglo	1.5	2.1	1.8
	African-American	4.2	6.4	5.3
	Latino	3.9	4.3	4.0
	Asian/Other	1.7	2.6	0.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	35	35	35
	Anglo	45	45	45
	African-American	42	43	42
	Latino	16	19	17
	Asian/Other	41	39	52
	Average class size	27.5	27.8	27.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,153
	Students with limited English proficiency			25%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	8,337	9,671	9,328
	Rate per 1,000	85	96	90
Foster Care	Number of children	387	371	379
	Rate per 1,000	3.9	3.7	3.7
	Avg. months in placement	31.3 mo.	27.1 mo.	29.6 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	3	5	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		42,230	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		94	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	27 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	16 / 58
Unemployment rate	6 / 58
Job seekers per new job	35 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	47 / 58
Fair market rent	52 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	29 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	33 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	10 / 58
$ collected	53 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	24 / 46
Low birthweight infants	14 / 46
Infant mortality	17 / 46
Teen births	24 / 46
Immunizations	10 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	23 / 57
Grads prepared for college	19 / 57
Average class size	25 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	39 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	29 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	8 / 54
months in placement	43 / 57
Youth arrests	40 / 58

The Children of

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's largest population counties, **Santa Clara County** has a relatively low proportion of low-income children, an unemployment rate lower than the state average and three job seekers competing for every new job. A higher percentage of licensed center-based infant care is available in Santa Clara than in most other California counties, yet the costs of infant care, preschool care and rent are among the highest in the state. Childhood immunization rates in Santa Clara County rank very high.

CHILDREN NOW

California County Data Book

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	1,629,840	417,692	
	Anglo	895,920	185,601	44%
	African-American	58,455	16,597	4%
	Latino	370,523	128,131	31%
	Asian/Other	304,942	87,363	21%
	Number of births	26,175		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	30%	n/a	32%
	Children receiving AFDC	15%	14%	12%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			3.1%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			3
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			22%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$918
	Child care/month - infant			$702
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$490
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			7%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			56%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$92

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.9	4.3	6.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.3	5.7	6.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.3	5.8	5.2
	Anglo	3.7	5.8	5.3
	African-American	17.3	5.7	11.9
	Latino	6.7	6.3	5.0
	Asian/Other	4.0	5.0	4.4
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	53	54	49
	Anglo	21	21	20
	African-American	67	64	60
	Latino	124	129	114
	Asian/Other	24	23	22
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			66.7%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.2	3.2	3.8
	Anglo	1.8	2.2	2.0
	African-American	3.7	4.2	5.5
	Latino	5.9	5.5	6.8
	Asian/Other	2.3	2.1	2.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	36	39	42
	Anglo	40	45	47
	African-American	24	20	24
	Latino	14	17	19
	Asian/Other	50	50	57
	Average class size	28.9	29.0	28.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,442
	Students with limited English proficiency			22%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	22,538	24,634	22,700
	Rate per 1,000	56	60	54
Foster Care	**Number of children**	2,390	2,365	2,380
	Rate per 1,000	6.0	5.8	5.7
	Avg. months in placement	29.1 mo.	28.2 mo.	29.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	7	8	n/a
	Injuries	30	18	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		12	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		157,345	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		95	n/a
	Percent drug-related		11%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		7%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	14 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	18 / 58
Unemployment rate	3 / 58
Job seekers per new job	6 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	18 / 58
Fair market rent	54 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	36 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	51 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	5 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	36 / 58
$ collected	21 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	23 / 46
Low birthweight infants	26 / 46
Infant mortality	9 / 46
Teen births	18 / 46
Immunizations	3 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	31 / 57
Grads prepared for college	8 / 57
Average class size	49 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	17 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	11 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	25 / 54
months in placement	42 / 57
Youth arrests	41 / 58

The Children of

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Highlights

With relatively low percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, unemployment in **Santa Cruz County** is below the state average and there are four job seekers competing for every new job. Costs of rent and child care in Santa Cruz county are among the highest in California. Santa Cruz County has one of the lowest percentages of low birthweight infants in the state. Santa Cruz County collects more money from established child support orders than most other counties.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	244,738	62,197	
	Anglo	174,320	36,063	58%
	African-American	2,406	670	1%
	Latino	58,254	23,308	37%
	Asian/Other	9,758	2,156	3%
	Number of births	3,582		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	36%	n/a	35%
	Children receiving AFDC	12%	12%	11%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			5.7%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			4
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			37%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$964
	Child care/month - infant			$698
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$490
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			6%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			45%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$134
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.6	3.7	4.2
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.6	5.6	4.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	6.2	7.6	3.7
	Anglo	6.8	8.1	3.7
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	6.4	8.0	4.2
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	55	53	52
	Anglo	19	21	23
	African-American	52	27	43
	Latino	142	134	125
	Asian/Other	22	16	15
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			59.9%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	5.5	3.8	3.3
	Anglo	3.7	3.6	2.7
	African-American	5.7	2.7	4.2
	Latino	8.8	4.4	4.2
	Asian/Other	3.4	2.7	3.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	28	33	38
	Anglo	36	42	49
	African-American	14	17	31
	Latino	11	15	15
	Asian/Other	36	44	31
	Average class size	29.0	29.3	29.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,267
	Students with limited English proficiency			26%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	5,546	5,950	5,652
	Rate per 1,000	93	98	91
Foster Care	Number of children	279	317	355
	Rate per 1,000	4.7	5.2	5.7
	Avg. months in placement	19.4 mo.	20.5 mo.	16.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	4	7	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	Number		1	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		25,282	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		107	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	23 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	12 / 58
Unemployment rate	16 / 58
Job seekers per new job	9 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	42 / 58
Fair market rent	55 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	35 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	51 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	8 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	50 / 58
$ collected	3 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	18 / 46
Low birthweight infants	5 / 46
Infant mortality	14 / 46
Teen births	20 / 46
Immunizations	14 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	43 / 57
Grads prepared for college	25 / 57
Average class size	50 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	24 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	34 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	17 / 54
months in placement	9 / 57
Youth arrests	50 / 58

The Children of

SHASTA COUNTY

Highlights

With a percentage of extremely poor children slightly higher than the state average, Shasta County also has an unemployment rate which is higher than the state average and 12 job seekers competing for every new job. Rent and child care costs in Shasta County are below state averages. Class sizes are smaller than in many other counties. Shasta County has a juvenile arrest rate which is significantly higher than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	177,770	49,632	
	Anglo	159,818	42,273	85%
	African-American	1,326	472	1%
	Latino	7,668	3,287	7%
	Asian/Other	8,958	3,600	7%
	Number of births	2,074		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	38%	n/a	43%
	Children receiving AFDC	24%	24%	24%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			8.7%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			12
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			22%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$503
	Child care/month - infant			$425
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$273
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			3%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			76%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$65

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.7	4.0	4.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.7	5.6	5.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.2	8.0	6.9
	Anglo	5.5	9.5	7.5
	African-American	55.6	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	6.8
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	59	54	50
	Anglo	56	49	44
	African-American	83	38	115
	Latino	80	95	85
	Asian/Other	77	88	77
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	6.0	4.5	4.0
	Anglo	5.7	4.3	3.5
	African-American	11.7	8.5	8.3
	Latino	8.0	5.1	9.9
	Asian/Other	6.9	5.2	4.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	24	35	33
	Anglo	26	37	33
	African-American	29	70	15
	Latino	12	29	22
	Asian/Other	17	25	32
	Average class size	28.0	27.7	27.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,144
	Students with limited English proficiency			3%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	6,804	6,814	6,337
	Rate per 1,000	144	141	128
Foster Care	**Number of children**	357	411	398
	Rate per 1,000	7.6	8.5	8.0
	Avg. months in placement	13.5 mo.	19.2 mo.	22.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	1	3	n/a
	Injuries	4	4	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		21,516	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		139	n/a
	Percent drug-related		5%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	29 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	42 / 58
Unemployment rate	37 / 58
Job seekers per new job	39 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	18 / 58
Fair market rent	14 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	6 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	2 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	24 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	10 / 58
$ collected	52 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	11 / 46
Low birthweight infants	12 / 46
Infant mortality	27 / 46
Teen births	22 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	50 / 57
Grads prepared for college	33 / 57
Average class size	28 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	40 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	46 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	35 / 54
months in placement	8 / 57
Youth arrests	56 / 58

The Children of

SIERRA COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, **Sierra County** had the lowest percentage of births to mothers with less than twelve years education, has a relatively low proportion of low-income children and has an unemployment rate which is close to the state average. Costs of rent and child care in Sierra are among the lowest in California. Sierra County has the highest percentage of established child support orders in the state.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	3,350	824	
	Anglo	3,082	744	90%
	African-American	6	3	0%
	Latino	189	56	7%
	Asian/Other	73	21	3%
	Number of births	19		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	31%	n/a	33%
	Children receiving AFDC	11%	12%	13%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			7.3%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			6
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			5%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$492
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$282
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			90%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$110

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	0.0	5.3	4.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	0.0	15.8	0.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Anglo	0.0	0.0	0.0
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	n/a
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	48	17	24
	Anglo	56	10	27
	African-American	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Latino	0	91	0
	Asian/Other	0	0	0

Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2 41.7%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	0.0	2.3	0.7
	Anglo	0.0	2.6	0.8
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	37	30	43
	Anglo	34	30	47
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	100	50	50
	Asian/Other	50	0	25
	Average class size	17.2	17.1	16.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$6,018
	Students with limited English proficiency			0%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	61	110	87
	Rate per 1,000	73	135	106
Foster Care	Number of children	9	10	9
	Rate per 1,000	10.8	12.2	10.9
	Avg. months in placement	21.1 mo.	9.2 mo.	10.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		443	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		117	n/a
	Percent drug-related		13%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	18 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	12 / 58
Unemployment rate	29 / 58
Job seekers per new job	18 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	1 / 58
Fair market rent	12 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	5 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	1 / 58
$ collected	11 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	35 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	1 / 57
Grads prepared for college	13 / 57
Average class size	1 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	2 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	NR
Foster care:	
rate	NR
months in placement	NR
Youth arrests	51 / 58

The Children of

SISKIYOU COUNTY

Highlights

With a proportion of extremely poor children higher than the state average, **Siskiyou County** has a higher than average unemployment rate and 27 job seekers competing for every new job. Rents and the cost of child care are much lower in Siskiyou County than in other California counties. Average class sizes in Siskiyou County are smaller than in many other counties. The rate of children in foster care placement is one of California's highest.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	46,961	11,831	
	Anglo	40,851	9,563	81%
	African-American	737	250	2%
	Latino	3,084	1,274	11%
	Asian/Other	2,289	744	6%
	Number of births	469		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	45%	n/a	43%
	Children receiving AFDC	29%	27%	26%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			9.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			27
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			21%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$470
	Child care/month - infant			$381
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$282
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			2%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			76%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$73

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.1	8.3	7.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.9	3.0	7.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.9	2.2	10.2
	Anglo	2.4	2.8	10.8
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	11.0
	Asian/Other	83.3	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	46	48	46
	Anglo	38	42	43
	African-American	34	0	57
	Latino	123	116	91
	Asian/Other	66	48	17
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.3	4.4	4.4
	Anglo	4.1	4.5	4.1
	African-American	4.4	6.9	6.1
	Latino	4.1	3.1	4.5
	Asian/Other	6.8	3.8	6.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	33	43	43
	Anglo	34	45	42
	African-American	25	31	0
	Latino	16	27	42
	Asian/Other	43	40	56
	Average class size	21.8	21.8	23.1
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,778
	Students with limited English proficiency			1%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,354	1,411	969
	Rate per 1,000	115	119	82
Foster Care	Number of children	146	188	208
	Rate per 1,000	12.4	15.9	17.6
	Avg. months in placement	30.1 mo.	17.2 mo.	20.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	1	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		5,768	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		87	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	34 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	46 / 58
Unemployment rate	38 / 58
Job seekers per new job	55 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	15 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	3 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	5 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	34 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	10 / 58
$ collected	37 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	30 / 46
Low birthweight infants	11 / 46
Infant mortality	21 / 46
Teen births	15 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	47 / 57
Grads prepared for college	6 / 57
Average class size	6 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	11 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	35 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	52 / 54
months in placement	23 / 57
Youth arrests	34 / 58

The Children of

SOLANO COUNTY

Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	419,120	125,288	
	Anglo	235,323	60,765	49%
	African-American	55,293	18,305	15%
	Latino	67,152	26,218	21%
	Asian/Other	61,352	20,000	16%
	Number of births	5,821		

Highlights

With lower than average percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, **Solano County** has an unemployment rate slightly higher than the state average and 10 job seekers competing for every new job. Costs of rent and child care are higher in Solano than in many other counties. While the percentage of students who drop out of high school in Solano is lower than the state average, the percentage of graduates who are prepared for college is also lower than the state average. Solano has one of the lowest child abuse rates in California.

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	25%	n/a	28%
	Children receiving AFDC	14%	14%	13%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			6.7%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			10
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			18%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$696
	Child care/month - infant			$667
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$455
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			5%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			56%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$78

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.7	6.2	9.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.8	6.5	6.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	7.1	8.8	5.1
	Anglo	6.6	9.3	3.2
	African-American	7.7	16.3	9.7
	Latino	8.4	2.6	6.0
	Asian/Other	6.6	7.0	5.6
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	60	55	50
	Anglo	47	44	42
	African-American	99	85	72
	Latino	85	80	69
	Asian/Other	41	31	35
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			51.3%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

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Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	2.6	2.4	2.4
	Anglo	2.2	2.1	1.9
	African-American	3.3	3.1	2.6
	Latino	4.5	3.3	4.1
	Asian/Other	1.6	1.7	1.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	29	33	32
	Anglo	32	39	37
	African-American	16	19	17
	Latino	23	25	20
	Asian/Other	38	37	41
	Average class size	28.4	28.2	28.9
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,098
	Students with limited English proficiency			8%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	4,129	5,315	5,676
	Rate per 1,000	35	44	45
Foster Care	Number of children	485	458	491
	Rate per 1,000	4.2	3.8	3.9
	Avg. months in placement	30.4 mo.	41.1 mo.	36.5 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	6	6	n/a
	Injuries	13	7	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		2	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		49,697	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		104	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	10 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	18 / 58
Unemployment rate	22 / 58
Job seekers per new job	35 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	11 / 58
Fair market rent	42 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	32 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	43 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	12 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	36 / 58
$ collected	32 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	34 / 46
Low birthweight infants	35 / 46
Infant mortality	29 / 46
Teen births	23 / 46
Immunizations	27 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	28 / 57
Average class size	42 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	45 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	3 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	11 / 54
months in placement	53 / 57
Youth arrests	49 / 58

The Children of

SONOMA COUNTY

Highlights

Sonoma County has a relatively low percentage of low-income children, one of the lowest rates of unemployment and four job seekers for every new job. In most health indicators — timely prenatal care, percentage of low birthweight infants, infant mortality rate and teen birth rate — Sonoma County ranks high compared to state averages. Sonoma County also has one of the lowest rates of children placed in foster care in California. The average stay in foster care in Sonoma County is slightly longer than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	440,099	113,582	
	Anglo	355,082	82,247	72%
	African-American	6,909	2,420	2%
	Latino	60,406	23,501	21%
	Asian/Other	17,702	5,414	5%
	Number of births	5,327		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	24%	n/a	26%
	Children receiving AFDC	11%	11%	10%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			3.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			4
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			27%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$766
	Child care/month - infant			$594
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$459
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			2%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			75%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$85
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	3.0	2.8	5.4
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.9	4.6	5.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.7	5.3	4.4
	Anglo	7.6	6.0	3.6
	African-American	0.0	19.8	0.0
	Latino	2.2	3.5	7.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	3.4
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	41	44	41
	Anglo	25	27	23
	African-American	65	119	66
	Latino	118	116	112
	Asian/Other	43	45	62
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.8	2.8	2.7
	Anglo	2.0	2.2	2.0
	African-American	4.6	3.1	4.7
	Latino	7.2	6.2	5.9
	Asian/Other	2.2	2.1	2.5
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	38	41	38
	Anglo	41	44	40
	African-American	38	24	19
	Latino	22	28	22
	Asian/Other	37	35	45
	Average class size	27.8	28.1	27.5
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,161
	Students with limited English proficiency			11%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	8,259	7,471	7,184
	Rate per 1,000	76	67	63
Foster Care	**Number of children**	353	402	427
	Rate per 1,000	3.2	3.6	3.8
	Avg. months in placement	25.8 mo.	27.9 mo.	29.8
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	2	5	
	Injuries	3	1	
Youth Homicides	**Number**		2	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		47,327	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		86	n/a
	Percent drug-related		10%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		6%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	7 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	10 / 58
Unemployment rate	5 / 58
Job seekers per new job	9 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	26 / 58
Fair market rent	47 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	24 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	44 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	34 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	14 / 58
$ collected	26 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	12 / 46
Low birthweight infants	5 / 46
Infant mortality	6 / 46
Teen births	11 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	22 / 57
Grads prepared for college	8 / 57
Average class size	28 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	38 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	18 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	4 / 54
months in placement	40 / 57
Youth arrests	33 / 58

The Children of

STANISLAUS COUNTY

Highlights

Stanislaus County has an unemployment rate more than twice the state average. Stanislaus County offers a higher than average percentage of licensed center-based care for infants and has lower than average costs for infant care. Stanislaus County spends less money on individual students than many other California counties and has a low percentage of high school graduates who are prepared for college.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	452,861	146,300	
	Anglo	290,488	77,934	53%
	African-American	8,423	3,161	2%
	Latino	125,876	53,767	37%
	Asian/Other	28,074	11,438	8%
	Number of births	7,313		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	41%	n/a	45%
	Children receiving AFDC	24%	23%	22%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			13.5%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			7
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			34%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$554
	Child care/month - infant			$520
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$390
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			7%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			70%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$87
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.1	3.8	4.3
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.4	6.6	5.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	5.8	8.4	5.9
	Anglo	6.1	8.3	6.9
	African-American	8.2	26.7	6.0
	Latino	5.6	8.3	5.1
	Asian/Other	3.8	3.9	3.7
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	74	73	66
	Anglo	59	54	45
	African-American	86	101	80
	Latino	103	105	103
	Asian/Other	56	72	62
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			57.5%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	4.2	4.0	3.7
	Anglo	3.5	3.0	2.8
	African-American	5.9	5.7	5.4
	Latino	5.9	5.9	5.2
	Asian/Other	2.9	4.5	3.8
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	19	26	24
	Anglo	20	28	28
	African-American	14	24	21
	Latino	11	18	15
	Asian/Other	29	39	29
	Average class size	29.0	29.5	29.4
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,955
	Students with limited English proficiency			18%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	11,177	10,293	11,743
	Rate per 1,000	82	73	80
Foster Care	**Number of children**	710	805	718
	Rate per 1,000	5.2	5.7	4.9
	Avg. months in placement	23.9 mo.	22.4 mo.	20.3 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	4	2	n/a
	Injuries	12	15	n/a
Youth Homi-cides	**Number**		4	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		57,836	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		128	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	33 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	37 / 58
Unemployment rate	50 / 58
Job seekers per new job	23 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	37 / 58
Fair market rent	24 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	13 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	28 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	5 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	20 / 58
$ collected	25 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	15 / 46
Low birthweight infants	35 / 46
Infant mortality	27 / 46
Teen births	33 / 46
Immunizations	18 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	39 / 57
Grads prepared for college	51 / 57
Average class size	52 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	55 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	20 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	18 / 54
months in placement	22 / 57
Youth arrests	54 / 58

The Children of

SUTTER COUNTY

Highlights

Sutter County has a lower than average percentage of extremely poor children, yet the unemployment rate is more than twice the state average and there are 21 job seekers competing for every new job. While the costs of child care and rent are among the state's lowest, there is a lower than average percentage of licensed center-based care for infants. Sutter County has a high percentage of pregnant women who do not receive timely prenatal care.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	79,424	23,636	
	Anglo	52,621	13,289	56%
	African-American	1,565	458	2%
	Latino	16,117	6,805	29%
	Asian/Other	9,121	3,084	13%
	Number of births	1,230		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	46%	n/a	49%
	Children receiving AFDC	17%	16%	15%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			14.6%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			21
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			32%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$472
	Child care/month - infant			$490
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$368
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			2%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			62%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$72

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	8.7	8.6	7.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	7.0	5.7	4.5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	10.4	4.9	6.0
	Anglo	7.9	7.1	4.8
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	16.9	3.1	11.9
	Asian/Other	6.6	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	64	67	65
	Anglo	54	60	59
	African-American	93	109	67
	Latino	111	103	103
	Asian/Other	22	26	25
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.3	4.1	5.4
	Anglo	1.8	2.9	4.5
	African-American	4.7	4.2	6.0
	Latino	8.0	8.3	8.7
	Asian/Other	2.5	3.1	3.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	19	22	27
	Anglo	19	26	32
	African-American	11	5	21
	Latino	11	14	12
	Asian/Other	27	20	28
	Average class size	26.9	26.6	27.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,057
	Students with limited English proficiency			19%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	2,004	2,118	2,121
	Rate per 1,000	91	93	90
Foster Care	Number of children	111	175	180
	Rate per 1,000	5.0	7.7	7.6
	Avg. months in placement	40.8 mo.	16.6 mo.	13.7 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	1	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		9,521	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		51	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		8%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	39 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	25 / 58
Unemployment rate	55 / 58
Job seekers per new job	52 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	32 / 58
Fair market rent	8 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	10 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	20 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	34 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	30 / 58
$ collected	39 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	41 / 46
Low birthweight infants	26 / 46
Infant mortality	29 / 46
Teen births	30 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	45 / 57
Grads prepared for college	51 / 57
Average class size	21 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	50 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	30 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	30 / 54
months in placement	28 / 57
Youth arrests	8 / 58

The Children of

TEHAMA COUNTY

Highlights

Tehama County has a slightly higher proportion of low-income and extremely poor children than the state average and a higher than average unemployment rate. While costs of child care and rent are among the state's lowest, there is a lower than average percentage of licensed center-based care for infants. Tehama County has one of the highest infant mortality rates in California.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	58,903	16,404	
	Anglo	49,174	12,114	74%
	African-American	382	99	1%
	Latino	7,868	3,739	23%
	Asian/Other	1,479	452	3%
	Number of births	728		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	50%	n/a	48%
	Children receiving AFDC	23%	23%	22%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			9.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			7
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			37%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$470
	Child care/month - infant			$390
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$286
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			1%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			63%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$72
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	4.8	6.1	5.5
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.4	4.4	6.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.3	11.7	6.9
	Anglo	3.8	13.4	9.7
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	12.5	9.3	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	63	74	64
	Anglo	49	56	46
	African-American	0	83	154
	Latino	146	165	137
	Asian/Other	35	67	104
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	2.3	1.7	1.6
	Anglo	2.3	1.3	1.6
	African-American	5.9	15.4	0.0
	Latino	2.7	2.8	2.0
	Asian/Other	1.4	1.8	0.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	21	23	29
	Anglo	21	24	31
	African-American	0	0	13
	Latino	14	20	18
	Asian/Other	41	16	17
	Average class size	26.1	25.8	26.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,234
	Students with limited English proficiency			7%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	2,801	1,969	2,041
	Rate per 1,000	179	122	124
Foster Care	**Number of children**	123	128	187
	Rate per 1,000	7.8	7.9	11.4
	Avg. months in placement	24.5 mo.	27.4 mo.	16.1 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	1	0	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		7,245	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		74	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		2%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	41 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	37 / 58
Unemployment rate	40 / 58
Job seekers per new job	23 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	42 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	4 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	8 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	39 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	29 / 58
$ collected	39 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	25 / 46
Low birthweight infants	17 / 46
Infant mortality	42 / 46
Teen births	31 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	8 / 57
Grads prepared for college	50 / 57
Average class size	17 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	30 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	48 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	37 / 54
months in placement	25 / 57
Youth arrests	25 / 58

The Children of

TRINITY COUNTY

Highlights

One of California's smallest population counties, **Trinity County** has higher than average percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, an unemployment rate higher than the state average and 30 job seekers competing for every new job. With one of the lowest juvenile arrest rates, Trinity County also spends more on individual students than many other counties and has smaller than average class sizes.

CHILDREN NOW

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	14,168	3,533	
	Anglo	12,678	3,044	86%
	African-American	53	8	0%
	Latino	560	190	5%
	Asian/Other	877	291	8%
	Number of births	125		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	48%	n/a	51%
	Children receiving AFDC	24%	22%	22%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			11.1%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			30
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			21%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$470
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$390
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			54%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$66

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	5.1	2.5	4.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	4.4	7.4	8.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	7.3	0.0	8.1
	Anglo	8.3	0.0	8.8
	African-American	n/a	n/a	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	46	50	33
	Anglo	42	47	31
	African-American	n/a	0	0
	Latino	56	53	0
	Asian/Other	88	83	79
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	3.3	1.2	1.7
	Anglo	3.2	1.4	1.5
	African-American	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Asian/Other	5.3	0.0	3.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	28	31	38
	Anglo	29	33	40
	African-American	n/a	0	0
	Latino	0	50	50
	Asian/Other	27	13	25
	Average class size	21.6	21.7	22.7
	Per pupil expenditure			$5,636
	Students with limited English proficiency			0%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	803	671	653
	Rate per 1,000	229	191	185
Foster Care	**Number of children**	34	40	35
	Rate per 1,000	9.7	11.4	9.9
	Avg. months in placement	26.2 mo.	14.6 mo.	31.8 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	1	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		1,679	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		40	n/a
	Percent drug-related		9%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		10%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	43 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	37 / 58
Unemployment rate	44 / 58
Job seekers per new job	57 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	15 / 58
Fair market rent	1 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	28 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	41 / 58
$ collected	49 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	NR
Low birthweight infants	NR
Infant mortality	NR
Teen births	NR
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	10 / 57
Grads prepared for college	28 / 57
Average class size	5 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	3 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	54 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	46 / 54
months in placement	31 / 57
Youth arrests	5 / 58

The Children of

TULARE COUNTY

Highlights

With relatively high percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, **Tulare County** has an unemployment rate more than twice the state average and has 18 job seekers competing for every new job. While costs of child care and rent are among the state's lowest, there is a lower than average percentage of licensed center-based care for infants. The teen birth rate in Tulare County is one of California's highest.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	379,056	128,819	
	Anglo	185,851	48,081	37%
	African-American	5,125	2,086	2%
	Latino	168,119	70,528	55%
	Asian/Other	19,961	8,124	6%
	Number of births	7,334		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	56%	n/a	61%
	Children receiving AFDC	32%	30%	29%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			13.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			18
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			51%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$490
	Child care/month - infant			$377
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$295
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			1%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			56%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$75
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.8	5.8	5.7
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.7	6.1	5.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.8	7.1	5.7
	Anglo	5.8	6.7	4.1
	African-American	25.9	28.0	9.3
	Latino	4.9	6.6	6.6
	Asian/Other	9.9	8.8	3.1
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	97	100	91
	Anglo	60	62	50
	African-American	122	121	91
	Latino	136	136	128
	Asian/Other	52	73	60
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			43.6%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	4.8	4.0	3.2
	Anglo	3.5	2.5	2.2
	African-American	2.6	5.1	2.9
	Latino	6.3	5.4	4.2
	Asian/Other	3.6	2.6	2.3
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	27	28	31
	Anglo	36	36	42
	African-American	19	18	32
	Latino	16	18	19
	Asian/Other	37	37	38
	Average class size	27.4	27.7	28.6
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,036
	Students with limited English proficiency			24%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	9,403	10,659	13,198
Child Abuse	Rate per 1,000	78	85	102
Foster Care	Number of children	1,089	1,396	1,231
Foster Care	Rate per 1,000	9.0	11.1	9.6
Foster Care	Avg. months in placement	20.9 mo.	15.1 mo.	20.3 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	4	5	n/a
Kids & Guns	Injuries	10	10	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		5	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		53,205	n/a
Youth Arrests	Rate per 1,000		121	n/a
Youth Arrests	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
Youth Arrests	Percent violent crime		3%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	54 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	51 / 58
Unemployment rate	51 / 58
Job seekers per new job	49 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	57 / 58
Fair market rent	11 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	1 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	9 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	39 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	36 / 58
$ collected	35 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	27 / 46
Low birthweight infants	29 / 46
Infant mortality	21 / 46
Teen births	43 / 46
Immunizations	33 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	39 / 57
Grads prepared for college	38 / 57
Average class size	32 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	51 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	27 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	45 / 54
months in placement	12 / 57
Youth arrests	53 / 58

The Children of

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Highlights

Tuolumne County ranks close to state averages in many family economic indicators and offers lower than average costs for preschool care. Tuolumne County has a high percentage of pregnant women who receive timely prenatal care and a teen birth rate which is well below the state average. Average class size in Tuolumne County is smaller than in many California counties. The rate of child abuse is much higher in Tuolumne County than in many counties.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	58,724	13,577	
	Anglo	49,356	11,140	82%
	African-American	1,592	41	0%
	Latino	6,214	1,982	15%
	Asian/Other	1,562	414	3%
	Number of births	508		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	30%	n/a	32%
	Children receiving AFDC	17%	17%	15%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			8.5%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			7
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			17%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$600
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$334
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			57%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$69
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.8	2.1	2.6
	% Low birthweight infants*	8.1	8.6	4.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.4	10.7	2.0
	Anglo	7.2	7.6	2.3
	African-American	0.0	0.0	n/a
	Latino	0.0	20.4	0.0
	Asian/Other	0.0	58.8	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	36	32	44
	Anglo	37	30	43
	African-American	200	0	0
	Latino	30	40	58
	Asian/Other	16	31	15
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.7	1.6	2.1
	Anglo	3.6	1.3	1.9
	African-American	14.3	0.0	8.3
	Latino	4.5	3.8	0.6
	Asian/Other	6.8	6.5	11.9
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	30	31	37
	Anglo	31	30	37
	African-American	0	0	0
	Latino	23	44	31
	Asian/Other	25	38	42
	Average class size	25.2	25.9	25.7
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,256
	Students with limited English proficiency			1%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	1,278	1,734	1,450
	Rate per 1,000	100	132	107
Foster Care	Number of children	61	70	68
	Rate per 1,000	4.8	5.3	5.0
	Avg. months in placement	13.0 mo.	23.1 mo.	19.9 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	0	1	n/a
	Injuries	0	0	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		6,205	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		54	n/a
	Percent drug-related		6%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		1%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	14 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	25 / 58
Unemployment rate	35 / 58
Job-seekers per new job	23 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	7 / 58
Fair market rent	31 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	13 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	35 / 58
$ collected	46 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	2 / 46
Low birthweight infants	45 / 46
Infant mortality	25 / 46
Teen births	6 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	15 / 57
Grads prepared for college	25 / 57
Average class size	15 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	27 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	37 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	16 / 54
months in placement	9 / 57
Youth arrests	12 / 58

The Children of

VENTURA COUNTY

Highlights

Ventura County has relatively low percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, lower than average unemployment and three job seekers competing for every new job. A high percentage of pregnant women in Ventura County seeks timely prenatal care and Ventura's foster care rate is one of the lowest in California. Ventura County spends less on individual students than many other counties and Ventura's juvenile arrest rate is higher than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	737,672	206,323	
	Anglo	459,765	108,013	52%
	African-American	16,317	4,911	2%
	Latino	218,530	81,610	40%
	Asian/Other	43,060	11,789	6%
	Number of births	11,938		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	34%	n/a	34%
	Children receiving AFDC	10%	10%	9%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			5.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			3
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			32%

1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)	$774
	Child care/month - infant	$624
	Child care/month - pre-schooler	$412
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants	4%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay	60%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order	$82

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	2.5	2.4	2.9
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.6	5.7	5.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	5.5	4.8	5.4
	Anglo	6.8	5.0	5.4
	African-American	31.4	18.3	13.5
	Latino	4.2	4.7	5.6
	Asian/Other	0.0	1.7	3.1
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	54	52	52
	Anglo	24	22	19
	African-American	58	59	34
	Latino	103	96	101
	Asian/Other	35	62	74
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			61.8%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	All	3.1	3.5	2.9
	Anglo	2.0	2.3	1.9
	African-American	2.7	5.2	3.3
	Latino	5.1	5.5	4.6
	Asian/Other	1.6	1.5	1.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	All	36	39	36
	Anglo	42	43	42
	African-American	32	33	31
	Latino	20	27	20
	Asian/Other	56	56	55
	Average class size	30.1	29.9	27.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$3,993
	Students with limited English proficiency			21%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	Number of reports	14,175	13,913	12,941
	Rate per 1,000	71	69	63
Foster Care	Number of children	658	653	601
	Rate per 1,000	3.3	3.2	2.9
	Avg. months in placement	21.6 mo.	24.5 mo.	24.8 mo.
Kids & Guns	Deaths	3	8	n/a
	Injuries	16	16	n/a
Youth Homicides	Number		8	n/a
Youth Arrests	Number		83,432	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		89	n/a
	Percent drug-related		12%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	20 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	7 / 58
Unemployment rate	19 / 58
Job seekers per new job	6 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	32 / 58
Fair market rent	48 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	27 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	36 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	15 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	32 / 58
$ collected	29 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	3 / 46
Low birthweight infants	17 / 46
Infant mortality	8 / 46
Teen births	18 / 46
Immunizations	12 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	27 / 57
Grads prepared for college	12 / 57
Average class size	50 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	53 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	16 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	2 / 54
months in placement	27 / 57
Youth arrests	37 / 58

The Children of

YOLO COUNTY

Highlights

Yolo County has a lower than average percentage of low-income children and a lower than average unemployment rate. Costs of child care in Yolo County are among the highest in California. In many education indicators, Yolo County ranks close to state averages. Yolo County has a teen birth rate well below the state average and a childhood immunization rate above the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	All	170,085	45,460	
	Anglo	107,209	23,320	51%
	African-American	3,970	1,088	2%
	Latino	40,717	16,287	36%
	Asian/Other	18,189	4,765	10%
	Number of births	2,242		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	Low-income children*	39%	n/a	39%
	Children receiving AFDC	20%	19%	18%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			4.9%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			5
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			31%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	Fair market rent (1996-97)			$643
	Child care/month - infant			$767
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$524
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			6%
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			65%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$77
	The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858			

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	6.5	7.4	10.1
	% Low birthweight infants*	5.7	6.4	5.1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	All	6.1	9.7	5.0
	Anglo	7.9	9.4	4.4
	African-American	22.2	43.5	0.0
	Latino	3.9	10.7	7.4
	Asian/Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	All	44	48	40
	Anglo	30	34	25
	African-American	38	27	42
	Latino	105	104	92
	Asian/Other	13	25	16
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			60.3%

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	5.3	3.7	3.2
	Anglo	3.8	2.8	2.2
	African-American	15.4	6.9	5.7
	Latino	7.5	4.7	5.1
	Asian/Other	5.1	5.5	2.6
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	34	35	33
	Anglo	39	40	37
	African-American	17	22	19
	Latino	22	23	23
	Asian/Other	32	42	46
	Average class size	28.0	28.3	28.0
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,089
	Students with limited English proficiency			20%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	4,057	3,835	3,656
	Rate per 1,000	97	88	80
Foster Care	**Number of children**	232	278	289
	Rate per 1,000	5.6	6.3	6.4
	Avg. months in placement	24.0 mo.	21.7 mo.	17.2 mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	0	0	n/a
	Injuries	2	4	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		19,454	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		95	n/a
	Percent drug-related		7%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		5%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	28 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	31 / 58
Unemployment rate	14 / 58
Job seekers per new job	12 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	29 / 58
Fair market rent	38 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	40 / 41
Child care/mo. - preschooler	53 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	8 / 42
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	26 / 58
$ collected	34 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	39 / 46
Low birthweight infants	26 / 46
Infant mortality	29 / 46
Teen births	14 / 46
Immunizations	13 / 38

Education

High school dropout rate	39 / 57
Grads prepared for college	20 / 57
Average class size	38 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	46 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	26 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	26 / 54
months in placement	20 / 57
Youth arrests	41 / 58

The Children of

YUBA COUNTY

Highlights

With high percentages of low-income and extremely poor children, **Yuba County** also has an unemployment rate which is more than twice the state average and 20 job seekers competing for every new job. Yuba County collects less money, on average, per established child support order than any other California county. Yuba County also has a high teen birth rate and a low percentage of high school graduates who are prepared for college. The high school dropout rate, however, is lower than the state average.

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Demographics

1996

		Total Population	Child (<18) Population	Child Ethnic Diversity
Ethnicities	**All**	69,773	25,218	
	Anglo	47,690	15,430	61%
	African-American	2,666	915	4%
	Latino	9,839	4,361	17%
	Asian/Other	9,578	4,512	18%
	Number of births	1,191		

Family Economics

		1994	1995	1996
Economic Realities	**Low-income children***	67%	n/a	68%
	Children receiving AFDC	34%	33%	30%
	Unemployment rate (1997)			12.8%
	Job seekers per new job (1997)			20
	Babies born to mothers w/ < 12 yrs education (1994)			43%
1997 Family Income & Expenses	**Fair market rent (1996-97)**			$472
	Child care/month - infant			n/a
	Child care/month - pre-schooler			$325
	Child care centers: % spaces for infants			n/a
	Child support: % cases with orders to pay			41%
	Child support: $ collected monthly/case with order			$41

The monthly salary for working full-time at minimum wage is $858

*Children in families with incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

Health

		1993	1994	1995
	% Late/no prenatal care*	10.6	11.0	8.8
	% Low birthweight infants*	6.8	6.7	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	6.3	8.9	8.4
	Anglo	6.4	9.5	9.6
	African-American	21.3	0.0	0.0
	Latino	0.0	15.4	5.2
	Asian/Other	8.6	3.9	9.2
Teen Birth Rate (per 1,000)	**All**	108	90	93
	Anglo	104	81	87
	African-American	57	95	128
	Latino	104	91	85
	Asian/Other	146	134	118
	Kindergarteners appropriately immunized by age 2			n/a

* Rates for various ethnicities unavailable at time of publication.

Education

		1994	1995	1996
High School Dropout Rate (%)	**All**	1.7	4.1	2.7
	Anglo	1.9	4.4	3.2
	African-American	0.7	8.4	2.3
	Latino	2.7	4.8	3.3
	Asian/Other	0.4	2.1	1.3
Graduates Prepared for College (%)	**All**	16	11	17
	Anglo	16	9	19
	African-American	20	8	15
	Latino	11	9	9
	Asian/Other	20	18	17
	Average class size	28.0	27.7	28.2
	Per pupil expenditure			$4,140
	Students with limited English proficiency			23%

Safety

		1994	1995	1996
Child Abuse	**Number of reports**	3,892	4,106	3,469
	Rate per 1,000	170	171	138
Foster Care	**Number of children**	209	237	243
	Rate per 1,000	9.1	9.9	9.6
	Avg. months in placement	33.4 mo.	26.3 mo.	24.4mo.
Kids & Guns	**Deaths**	1	0	n/a
	Injuries	2	2	n/a
Youth Homicides	**Number**		0	n/a
Youth Arrests	**Number**		8,895	n/a
	Rate per 1,000		69	n/a
	Percent drug-related		8%	n/a
	Percent violent crime		4%	n/a

County Ranks

Family Economics

Low-income children	58 / 58
Children receiving AFDC	56 / 58
Unemployment rate	47 / 58
Job seekers per new job	51 / 58
Mothers w/ <12 yrs education	50 / 58
Fair market rent	8 / 58
Child care/mo. - infant	NR
Child care/mo. - preschooler	11 / 55
Child care: % spaces for infants	NR
Child support:	
% cases w/ orders	53 / 58
$ collected	58 / 58

Health

Late/no prenatal care	44 / 46
Low birthweight infants	35 / 46
Infant mortality	38 / 46
Teen births	45 / 46
Immunizations	NR

Education

High school dropout rate	23 / 57
Grads prepared for college	57 / 57
Average class size	35 / 58
Per pupil expenditure	42 / 58

Safety

Child abuse	49 / 54
Foster care:	
rate	41 / 54
months in placement	41 / 57
Youth arrests	21 / 58

DATA EXPLANATION AND SOURCES

Demographics

The population information includes the total population for each county, the number of children under age 18, and the ethnic diversity of those children. It also includes the number of births per county for 1996.

Sources: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit: Detailed Tables from the *1993 Series Population Projections* and (for 1996 birth information) *Historical County Population Estimates and Components of Change,* July 1, 1990-96.

Family Economics

Low-income children: The percentage of K-12 students enrolled in either public or private schools who are eligible for free or reduced-cost meals. To be eligible for the program, families must have incomes at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. In 1996, the Federal Poverty Level for a four-person family was $15,600.

Sources: California Department of Education, Child Nutrition Division, *Free and Reduced Meals Information* report, 1995-96. Further assistance by the California/Nevada Community Action Association. Federal poverty guidelines come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Federal Register,* Vol. 62, No. 46, March 10, 1997.

Children receiving AFDC: Through 1996, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was a cash assistance program to help children and families in times of need. This program was replaced in 1997 with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). In 1996, the maximum annual cash grant was $6,500 - $6,800 for a family of three or about half of the Federal Poverty Level for a family of that size. This indicator shows the percentage of children in each county who received AFDC assistance in November, 1994-1996.

Source: California Department of Social Services, Information Services Bureau, *Public Welfare in California* November Report: 1994, 1995, 1996.

Unemployment rate: The percentage of the California civilian labor force which is not employed and is actively looking for work.

Source: California Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Division, *Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties.* June, 1997.

Job seekers per new job: The ratio of unemployed, AFDC, and General Assistance recipients per new job (includes projected annual average job growth).

Sources: California Department of Social Services and the California Employment Development Department. Data was prepared by the California Budget Project: *Job Seekers Outnumber Projected Jobs,* May, 1997.

Babies born to mothers with less than 12 years education: The percentage of 1994 live California births which were to mothers (all ages) with less than 12 years of education.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Planning and Data *Analysis Section, Health Data Summaries for California Counties, 1996.*

Fair market rent: The gross rent estimate (including utilities, except telephone) for a modest two bedroom apartment, published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Federal Register,* Part IV, September 20, 1996.

Child care costs: The average monthly cost of full-time care for a child under 2 years of age (infant care) and for a child 2-5 years old (preschool) in a licensed child care center.

Child care spaces for infants: The percentage of all spaces in child care centers which are licensed to serve infants under the age of two. In California, licensed child care centers account for 69% of the regulated child care capacity; the remaining 31% is through family child care homes.

Source: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, *The California Child Care Portfolio, 1997.*

Child support: The percentage of 1995-96 child support cases which had orders to pay and the average amount of money which was collected monthly from those orders. It is important to note that cases without orders in place also represent children who are awaiting child support.

Source: California Department of Social Services, Child Support Management Information System, *Annual Report* (1995-96). Data was prepared by the National Center for Youth Law.

Minimum wage: The current minimum wage in California is $5.15 per hour. Beginning March, 1998, the minimum wage will increase to $5.75 per hour. An $858 monthly salary is the gross income from working at $5.15 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

Health

Percentage of births with late or no prenatal care: The percentage of live births to mothers of all ages who did not receive prenatal care until the third trimester, or who received no prenatal care.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research and Vital Statistics Section.

Percentage of low birthweight infants: The percentage of all live births with birthweights less than 2500 grams (5.5 lbs.). Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Statistics Section.

Infant mortality rate: The number of infants who die within the first year of life per 1,000 live births.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Statistics Section.

Teen birth rate: The number of births to female teens ages 15 through 19 per 1,000 females of that age group.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Statistics Section.

Kindergartners appropriately immunized: The percentage of kindergarten students who were up-to-date with recommended immunizations at age 24 months. Up-to-date means they have received 3 vaccine doses against Polio, 4 doses against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis, and 1 dose against Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Source: California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch, *1996 Kindergarten Expanded Retrospective Survey.*

Education

High school dropout rate: The percentage of public school 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who leave school in one year and do not notify the school of a change of residence.

Source: California Dept. of Education, Educational Demographics Unit.

Graduates prepared for college: The percentage of public high school twelfth-grade graduates who have completed the courses required for entrance into the University of California and California State University systems.
Source: California Dept. of Education, Educational Demographics Unit.

Average class size: The enrollment in classes divided by the number of classes. It excludes special education classes, classes with zero enrollment and classes with enrollment over 50.

Source: California Dept. of Education, Educational Demographics Unit.

Per pupil expenditure: The current expenditures for education (including general fund items such as certificated salaries, classified salaries, employee benefits, books and supplies, equipment replacement and services and direct support) divided by the total average daily attendance (ADA). These county per-pupil expenditure figures include slightly different costs than the per-pupil expenditures reported for state-by-state comparisons.
Source: California Department of Education, School Business Services Division, *Current Expense of Education per ADA*, 1995-96.

Students with limited English proficiency: The percentage of 1996 public school students (K-12) who were designated by the school as having limited proficiency in English.

Source: California Dept. of Education, Educational Demographics Unit.

Safety

Child abuse: The number of reports of child sexual, physical and emotional abuse, as well as neglect, exploitation and caretaker incapacity per 1,000 children.

Source: California Dept. of Social Services, Statistical Services Bureau. *Preplacement Preventive Services for Children in California, Annual Statistical Report:* 1994, 1995, 1996.

Foster care: The number of children under age 18 who are in out-of-home care per 1,000 children (does not include those children who are under probation status). This information also shows the average number of months a child has been in a foster care placement.

Source: California Department of Social Services, Information Services Bureau, Report FCI520: *Selected Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of Three Consecutive Years.* For 1994 information, a May report was used, whereas for 1995 and 1996 information, an April report was used.

Children killed or injured by guns: The numbers of fatalities and injuries to children under 18 years of age from firearms. The fatalities and injuries include those which are unintentional, self-inflicted, a result of assault, a result of legal intervention and whose causes are undetermined.
Source: For Fatalities — California Department of Health Services, Death Records, 1994 and 1995. For Injuries — California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Hospital Discharge Dataset, 1994 and 1995. Both were prepared by the California Department of Health Services, Emergency Preparedness and Injury Control Branch.

Youth homicides: The number of children, age 17 and younger, who were victims of willful homicide in 1995.

Source: California Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

Youth arrests: The number of children (age 10-17) arrested for all crimes (including status offenses and other reported offenses) in 1995 and the rate of arrest per 1,000 children (age 10-17). This also shows the percentage of all arrests which were drug-related (including both felony and misdemeanor drug arrests), and the percentage of arrests which were for violent crimes (including homicide, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery assault and kidnapping). It is important to note that while alcohol is a drug, the percent of drug-related arrests excludes alcohol-related arrests. Arrest data from the Oakland police department is missing from Alameda County as they did not report arrest data in 1995.

Source: California Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, *Adult and Juvenile Arrests Reported,* 1995: *Sex and Law Enforcement Disposition by Specific Offense.*

*An "n/a" signifies that data for a particular indicator or a specific year in that county was not available.

Comments on Ranking Methodology

Of the 27 indicators presented in this book, 24 of them were ranked so that counties could compare themselves to each other and to the state averages. Wherever there is information for multiple years, the ranks are based on the two or three year averages of those trends. To determine which counties were too small to rank reliably, we calculated a standard deviation for each county and created a confidence interval. If the range of possible rates was so large that the average rate could not be considered reliable, the county was eliminated from the ranking and received a score of "NR" for "no rank." Counties which had the same rates or numbers for a particular indicator received the same rank.

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN 1996, Ages 0-18

	Children									
County	Total	% of cnty. pop.	Anglo		African-American		Latino		Asian/Other	
Alameda	364,694	26%	140,698	39%	74,078	20%	77,878	21%	72,040	20%
Alpine	362	28%	203	56%	0	0%	28	8%	131	36%
Amador	7,077	19%	6,261	88%	43	1%	500	7%	273	4%
Butte	51,144	24%	37,690	74%	838	2%	8,307	16%	4,309	8%
Calaveras	11,375	26%	8,992	79%	148	1%	1,317	12%	918	8%
Colusa	6,590	34%	3,420	52%	15	0%	2,939	45%	216	3%
Contra Costa	234,041	26%	132,348	57%	27,335	12%	43,556	19%	30,802	13%
Del Norte	9,350	28%	5,073	54%	270	3%	2,062	22%	1,945	21%
El Dorado	42,626	27%	35,506	83%	222	1%	5,582	13%	1,316	3%
Fresno	267,171	32%	82,173	31%	14,357	5%	129,703	49%	40,938	15%
Glenn	9,177	32%	4,926	54%	29	0%	3,112	34%	1,110	12%
Humboldt	35,596	27%	26,080	73%	938	3%	4,873	14%	3,705	10%
Imperial	47,516	34%	7,282	15%	798	2%	38,438	81%	998	2%
Inyo	5,663	29%	4,224	75%	19	0%	703	12%	717	13%
Kern	223,645	32%	103,670	46%	13,587	6%	97,469	44%	8,919	4%
Kings	37,947	32%	16,374	43%	2,469	7%	17,151	45%	1,953	5%
Lake	15,307	25%	11,884	78%	336	2%	2,374	16%	713	5%
Lassen	7,401	22%	6,137	83%	65	1%	835	11%	364	5%
Los Angeles	2,721,636	28%	612,222	22%	288,663	11%	1,537,371	56%	283,380	10%
Madera	35,537	30%	15,012	42%	793	2%	18,994	53%	738	2%
Marin	55,237	22%	44,141	80%	1,795	3%	6,598	12%	2,703	5%
Mariposa	4,278	24%	3,521	82%	41	1%	372	9%	344	8%
Mendocino	24,611	27%	17,075	69%	250	1%	5,579	23%	1,707	7%
Merced	75,906	35%	28,719	38%	3,048	4%	32,698	43%	11,441	15%
Modoc	2,708	25%	2,154	80%	51	2%	339	13%	164	6%
Mono	2,749	25%	1,993	72%	20	1%	579	21%	157	6%
Monterey	120,999	31%	49,445	41%	6,402	5%	57,861	48%	7,291	6%
Napa	29,446	24%	19,645	67%	425	1%	8,277	28%	1,099	4%
Nevada	23,125	24%	20,635	89%	66	0%	1,897	8%	527	2%
Orange	715,195	26%	349,626	49%	13,871	2%	271,603	38%	80,095	11%
Placer	58,775	27%	48,888	83%	498	1%	7,229	12%	2,160	4%
Plumas	5,336	24%	4,451	83%	53	1%	527	10%	305	6%
Riverside	497,556	32%	211,323	42%	27,954	6%	226,398	46%	31,881	6%
Sacramento	330,982	27%	182,159	55%	41,496	13%	61,497	19%	45,830	14%
San Benito	13,691	31%	5,629	41%	55	0%	7,748	57%	259	2%
San Bernardino	601,697	34%	267,506	44%	55,008	9%	244,160	41%	35,023	6%
San Diego	737,157	26%	364,213	49%	55,686	8%	248,944	34%	68,314	9%
San Francisco	136,827	18%	41,578	30%	21,872	16%	26,909	20%	46,468	34%
San Joaquin	172,401	31%	74,022	43%	9,810	6%	54,907	32%	33,662	20%
San Luis Obispo	55,388	23%	40,109	72%	1,270	2%	12,337	22%	1,672	3%
San Mateo	164,120	23%	65,537	40%	7,819	5%	52,625	32%	38,139	23%
Santa Barbara	103,760	25%	48,429	47%	2,978	3%	47,629	46%	4,724	5%
Santa Clara	417,692	26%	185,601	44%	16,597	4%	128,131	31%	87,363	21%
Santa Cruz	62,197	25%	36,063	58%	670	1%	23,308	37%	2,156	3%
Shasta	49,632	28%	42,273	85%	472	1%	3,287	7%	3,600	7%
Sierra	824	25%	744	90%	3	0%	56	7%	21	3%
Siskiyou	11,831	25%	9,563	81%	250	2%	1,274	11%	744	6%
Solano	125,288	30%	60,765	49%	18,305	15%	26,218	21%	20,000	16%
Sonoma	113,582	26%	82,247	72%	2,420	2%	23,501	21%	5,414	5%
Stanislaus	146,300	32%	77,934	53%	3,161	2%	53,767	37%	11,438	8%
Sutter	23,636	30%	13,289	56%	458	2%	6,805	29%	3,084	13%
Tehama	16,404	28%	12,114	74%	99	1%	3,739	23%	452	3%
Trinity	3,533	25%	3,044	86%	8	0%	190	5%	291	8%
Tulare	128,819	34%	48,081	37%	2,086	2%	70,528	55%	8,124	6%
Tuolumne	13,577	23%	11,140	82%	41	0%	1,982	15%	414	3%
Ventura	206,323	28%	108,013	52%	4,911	2%	81,610	40%	11,789	6%
Yolo	45,460	27%	23,320	51%	1,088	2%	16,287	36%	4,765	10%
Yuba	25,218	36%	15,430	61%	915	4%	4,361	17%	4,512	18%
CALIFORNIA	**9,456,115**	**28%**	**3,880,594**	**41%**	**726,955**	**8%**	**3,814,949**	**40%**	**1,033,617**	**11%**

FAMILY ECONOMIC REALITIES

	Unemployment (June, 1997)		Job seekers per new job		Moms w/ < 12 yrs education		Low income children*		% of child pop. receiving AFDC	
County	Percent	Rank	Number	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Alameda	4.6	11	5	12	20%	14	36%	25	20%	32
Alpine	19.5	57	1	1	33%	36	51%	47	27%	46
Amador	5.8	18	4	9	16%	5	22%	4	10%	7
Butte	9.6	38	8	27	31%	29	42%	31	31%	53
Calaveras	8.6	36	8	27	15%	4	32%	18	15%	22
Colusa	14.2	53	13	41	54%	58	62%	56	12%	12
Contra Costa	4.3	7	5	12	18%	11	26%	8	14%	18
Del Norte	8.4	33	17	47	35%	40	42%	31	27%	46
El Dorado	5.2	15	5	12	17%	7	22%	4	9%	3
Fresno	12.4	46	17	47	47%	54	57%	52	33%	56
Glenn	14.3	54	10	35	45%	52	52%	48	21%	33
Humboldt	6.6	21	9	32	23%	21	36%	25	21%	33
Imperial	24.6	58	26	54	37%	42	58%	53	30%	51
Inyo	7.3	29	10	35	25%	24	28%	11	15%	22
Kern	11.4	45	13	41	40%	48	50%	43	24%	42
Kings	12.9	48	18	49	40%	48	54%	51	22%	36
Lake	10.2	41	14	46	31%	29	52%	48	32%	55
Lassen	7.8	32	6	18	22%	18	31%	14	24%	42
Los Angeles	6.9	25	9	32	43%	50	59%	54	24%	42
Madera	13.4	49	21	52	48%	55	53%	50	23%	37
Marin	2.9	2	2	2	13%	2	14%	1	5%	1
Mariposa	6.8	23	6	18	18%	11	24%	6	17%	28
Mendocino	6.9	25	8	27	32%	32	44%	34	21%	33
Merced	14.1	52	27	55	46%	53	63%	57	33%	56
Modoc	8.4	33	31	58	16%	5	50%	43	27%	46
Mono	15.2	56	13	41	32%	32	28%	11	9%	3
Monterey	7.2	27	9	32	49%	56	49%	41	13%	16
Napa	4.3	7	2	2	30%	28	31%	14	9%	3
Nevada	6.1	20	6	18	17%	7	20%	3	10%	7
Orange	3.3	4	2	2	34%	37	35%	23	11%	10
Placer	4.8	13	2	2	14%	3	19%	2	9%	3
Plumas	7.3	29	13	41	17%	7	34%	20	15%	22
Riverside	7.2	27	7	23	34%	37	46%	38	16%	25
Sacramento	5.7	16	5	12	25%	24	41%	29	31%	53
San Benito	11	43	12	39	38%	46	34%	20	14%	18
San Bernardino	6.8	23	8	27	35%	40	44%	34	23%	37
San Diego	4.4	10	6	18	28%	27	45%	37	18%	29
San Francisco	4.3	7	8	27	23%	21	50%	43	18%	29
San Joaquin	10.8	42	13	41	37%	42	48%	40	29%	50
San Luis Obispo	4.6	11	5	12	23%	21	28%	11	12%	12
San Mateo	2.8	1	3	6	21%	15	26%	8	7%	2
Santa Barbara	4.1	6	10	35	39%	47	37%	27	13%	16
Santa Clara	3.1	3	3	6	22%	18	31%	14	14%	18
Santa Cruz	5.7	16	4	9	37%	42	35%	23	12%	12
Shasta	8.7	37	12	39	22%	18	41%	29	24%	42
Sierra	7.3	29	6	18	5%	1	32%	18	12%	12
Siskiyou	9.6	38	27	55	21%	15	44%	34	27%	46
Solano	6.7	22	10	35	18%	11	27%	10	14%	18
Sonoma	3.8	5	4	9	27%	26	25%	7	11%	10
Stanislaus	13.5	50	7	23	34%	37	43%	33	23%	37
Sutter	14.6	55	21	52	32%	32	47%	39	16%	25
Tehama	9.9	40	7	23	37%	42	49%	41	23%	37
Trinity	11.1	44	30	57	21%	15	50%	43	23%	37
Tulare	13.9	51	18	49	51%	57	59%	54	30%	51
Tuolumne	8.5	35	7	23	17%	7	31%	14	16%	25
Ventura	5.9	19	3	6	32%	32	34%	20	10%	7
Yolo	4.9	14	5	12	31%	29	39%	28	19%	31
Yuba	12.8	47	20	51	43%	50	68%	58	33%	56
CALIFORNIA	**6.2**		**7**		**35%**		**46%**		**20%**	

*Children in families with annual incomes below $29,000 for a family of four in 1996.

FAMILY EXPENSES Monthly costs, 1996

CHILD SUPPORT

	Rent		Infant care		Preschool care		Cases w/ orders to pay		Avg. monthly collection per order	
County	Dollars	Rank	Dollars	Rank	Dollars	Rank	Percent	Rank	Dollars	Rank
Alameda	$794	49	$689	33	$481	48	83%	4	$103	15
Alpine	$505	15	n/a	NR	$390	28	78%	7	$102	16
Amador	$605	32	$563	20	$368	20	75%	14	$99	18
Butte	$546	23	$719	37	$325	11	42%	52	$84	27
Calaveras	$556	25	$537	16	$368	20	55%	39	$71	42
Colusa	$470	1	n/a	NR	$277	3	58%	34	$89	23
Contra Costa	$794	49	$689	33	$481	48	54%	41	$66	49
Del Norte	$556	25	n/a	NR	n/a	NR	70%	20	$69	46
El Dorado	$639	35	$516	12	$390	28	78%	7	$82	29
Fresno	$526	18	$546	18	$407	35	71%	19	$73	37
Glenn	$470	1	n/a	NR	n/a	NR	70%	20	$66	49
Humboldt	$559	27	$481	8	$347	14	76%	10	$131	5
Imperial	$518	16	$377	1	$321	10	73%	18	$82	29
Inyo	$535	21	$624	27	$386	26	81%	6	$89	23
Kern	$543	22	$585	22	$425	37	66%	25	$57	55
Kings	$501	13	n/a	NR	$282	5	74%	16	$72	39
Lake	$570	28	$464	7	$347	14	51%	45	$83	28
Lassen	$480	10	n/a	NR	$347	14	74%	16	$93	20
Los Angeles	$854	53	$550	19	$386	26	35%	56	$71	42
Madera	$526	18	n/a	NR	$347	14	68%	23	$90	22
Marin	$965	56	$754	39	$555	55	86%	2	$149	2
Mariposa	$526	18	n/a	NR	$260	1	61%	31	$113	9
Mendocino	$610	33	n/a	NR	$355	19	60%	32	$104	14
Merced	$521	17	n/a	NR	$347	14	82%	5	$94	19
Modoc	$470	1	n/a	NR	n/a	NR	55%	39	$42	57
Mono	$725	46	n/a	NR	$477	47	40%	54	$133	4
Monterey	$723	45	$485	9	$425	37	50%	49	$100	17
Napa	$696	42	$589	23	$429	40	65%	26	$115	8
Nevada	$680	40	$520	13	$368	20	67%	24	$62	54
Orange	$827	51	$607	26	$442	41	51%	45	$74	36
Placer	$639	35	$659	31	$472	46	44%	51	$111	10
Plumas	$470	1	n/a	NR	$451	42	54%	41	$150	1
Riverside	$582	29	$563	20	$390	28	51%	45	$50	56
Sacramento	$639	35	$633	30	$459	44	39%	55	$121	6
San Benito	$659	39	$511	11	$399	33	54%	41	$69	46
San Bernardino	$582	29	$520	13	$381	25	25%	58	$110	11
San Diego	$682	41	$598	25	$425	37	29%	57	$78	32
San Francisco	$965	56	$780	41	$542	54	78%	7	$71	42
San Joaquin	$614	34	$542	17	$373	24	64%	28	$71	42
San Luis Obispo	$704	44	$407	5	$277	3	85%	3	$116	7
San Mateo	$965	56	$745	38	$485	50	51%	45	$108	13
Santa Barbara	$840	52	$628	29	$399	33	76%	10	$64	53
Santa Clara	$918	54	$702	36	$490	51	56%	36	$92	21
Santa Cruz	$964	55	$698	35	$490	51	45%	50	$134	3
Shasta	$503	14	$425	6	$273	2	76%	10	$65	52
Sierra	$492	12	n/a	NR	$282	5	90%	1	$110	11
Siskiyou	$470	1	$381	3	$282	5	76%	10	$73	37
Solano	$696	42	$667	32	$455	43	56%	36	$78	32
Sonoma	$766	47	$594	24	$459	44	75%	14	$85	26
Stanislaus	$554	24	$520	13	$390	28	70%	20	$87	25
Sutter	$472	8	$490	10	$368	20	62%	30	$72	39
Tehama	$470	1	$390	4	$286	8	63%	29	$72	39
Trinity	$470	1	n/a	NR	$390	28	54%	41	$66	49
Tulare	$490	11	$377	1	$295	9	56%	36	$75	35
Tuolumne	$600	31	n/a	NR	$334	13	57%	35	$69	46
Ventura	$774	48	$624	27	$412	36	60%	32	$82	29
Yolo	$643	38	$767	40	$524	53	65%	26	$77	34
Yuba	$472	8	n/a	NR	$325	11	41%	53	$41	58
CALIFORNIA	**N/A**		**$585**		**$407**		**48%**		**$78**	

FAMILY HEALTH 1993-95 Average

	Mothers receiving late or no prenatal care			Low birthweight infants		
County	Number	Percent	Rank	Number	Percent	Rank
Alameda	1,823	2.8%	5	4,540	7.1%	45
Alpine	2	8.0%	NR	0	0.0%	NR
Amador	18	2.3%	1	34	4.3%	NR
Butte	439	5.8%	26	429	5.6%	22
Calaveras	51	4.6%	21	65	5.8%	29
Colusa	107	11.0%	NR	60	6.2%	NR
Contra Costa	1,438	3.8%	13	2,315	6.2%	34
Del Norte	80	8.0%	NR	55	5.5%	NR
El Dorado	177	3.3%	9	298	5.6%	22
Fresno	1,805	3.9%	14	3,101	6.6%	39
Glenn	76	5.7%	NR	50	3.8%	1
Humboldt	340	7.1%	34	242	5.1%	8
Imperial	837	10.2%	45	422	5.1%	8
Inyo	63	9.5%	NR	41	6.2%	NR
Kern	3,081	8.3%	41	2,482	6.7%	43
Kings	497	7.4%	38	395	5.9%	31
Lake	178	9.1%	43	111	5.6%	22
Lassen	53	5.8%	NR	52	5.7%	NR
Los Angeles	21,981	4.0%	15	34,442	6.3%	35
Madera	375	6.3%	28	328	5.5%	17
Marin	213	2.6%	3	443	5.4%	14
Mariposa	39	7.6%	NR	31	6.1%	NR
Mendocino	487	14.4%	46	185	5.5%	17
Merced	906	7.2%	37	701	5.6%	22
Modoc	23	6.2%	NR	29	7.8%	NR
Mono	31	7.7%	NR	31	7.7%	NR
Monterey	1,733	8.1%	40	1,144	5.4%	14
Napa	209	4.6%	21	196	4.3%	2
Nevada	82	3.2%	7	120	4.7%	3
Orange	5,967	4.0%	15	7,900	5.3%	12
Placer	267	3.3%	9	414	5.1%	8
Plumas	18	3.2%	NR	28	5.0%	NR
Riverside	5,113	6.9%	30	4,539	6.1%	33
Sacramento	3,706	6.6%	29	3,708	6.6%	39
San Benito	74	3.2%	7	114	4.9%	4
San Bernardino	6,601	7.0%	33	6,221	6.6%	39
San Diego	10,092	7.1%	34	8,330	5.9%	31
San Francisco	1,108	4.2%	18	1,840	6.9%	44
San Joaquin	1,937	6.9%	30	1,834	6.6%	39
San Luis Obispo	345	4.3%	20	399	5.0%	5
San Mateo	940	3.1%	6	1,683	5.5%	17
Santa Barbara	926	4.9%	24	1,019	5.4%	14
Santa Clara	3,758	4.7%	23	4,517	5.7%	26
Santa Cruz	462	4.2%	18	548	5.0%	5
Shasta	229	3.6%	11	333	5.3%	12
Sierra	2	3.2%	NR	3	4.8%	NR
Siskiyou	101	6.9%	30	76	5.2%	11
Solano	1,264	7.1%	34	1,166	6.5%	35
Sonoma	621	3.7%	12	832	5.0%	5
Stanislaus	895	4.0%	15	1,391	6.3%	35
Sutter	294	8.3%	41	203	5.7%	26
Tehama	125	5.5%	25	126	5.5%	17
Trinity	15	3.9%	NR	25	6.6%	NR
Tulare	1,334	6.1%	27	1,261	5.8%	29
Tuolumne	36	2.5%	2	101	7.1%	45
Ventura	944	2.6%	3	2,000	5.5%	17
Yolo	539	8.0%	39	387	5.7%	26
Yuba	375	10.1%	44	240	6.5%	35
CALIFORNIA	**85,232**	**5.0%**		**103,580**	**6.1%**	

NR = Numbers too small to be statistically significant

INFANT MORTALITY 1993-95

	1993		1994		1995		1993-95 Average		
County	Deaths	Rate*	Deaths	Rate*	Deaths	Rate*	Deaths	Rate*	Rank
Alameda	136	6.2	137	6.4	114	5.4	387	6.0	17
Alpine	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	NR
Amador	2	7.3	3	10.9	0	0.0	5	6.3	NR
Butte	20	7.7	16	6.4	26	10.3	62	8.2	41
Calaveras	2	5.6	8	21.1	5	13.1	15	13.4	NR
Colusa	3	9.3	2	6.0	2	6.3	7	7.2	NR
Contra Costa	74	5.8	71	5.7	75	6.0	220	5.9	14
Del Norte	2	5.7	5	14.6	5	16.1	12	12.0	NR
El Dorado	8	4.5	16	8.9	6	3.5	30	5.7	11
Fresno	119	7.4	145	9.3	125	8.3	389	8.3	42
Glenn	2	4.8	2	4.3	1	2.3	5	3.8	2
Humboldt	18	11.2	20	12.5	14	8.9	52	10.9	45
Imperial	15	5.3	17	6.2	13	4.9	45	5.5	10
Inyo	2	9.7	2	9.3	1	4.1	5	7.6	NR
Kern	135	10.8	141	11.2	130	10.9	406	10.9	45
Kings	15	6.5	20	9.0	13	6.1	48	7.2	35
Lake	4	6.3	7	10.7	2	3.0	13	6.6	26
Lassen	3	9.5	2	6.5	3	10.1	8	8.7	NR
Los Angeles	1381	7.3	1,252	6.9	1,176	6.7	3,809	7.0	29
Madera	16	8.0	16	8.2	14	7.0	46	7.8	38
Marin	17	6.1	14	5.1	7	2.7	38	4.7	5
Mariposa	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.6	1	2.0	1
Mendocino	13	11.8	7	6.1	9	8.0	29	8.6	44
Merced	26	5.9	30	7.2	33	8.2	89	7.1	33
Modoc	0	0.0	1	8.2	1	8.2	2	5.4	NR
Mono	1	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.5	NR
Monterey	53	7.1	41	5.8	39	5.7	133	6.2	21
Napa	11	7.0	9	6.0	8	5.5	28	6.2	21
Nevada	3	3.4	4	4.8	3	3.6	10	3.9	3
Orange	300	5.9	300	6.0	272	5.6	872	5.8	12
Placer	20	7.6	11	4.1	18	6.3	49	6.0	17
Plumas	1	4.7	4	22.1	1	6.0	6	10.7	NR
Riverside	191	7.6	209	8.4	171	7.1	571	7.7	37
Sacramento	137	7.1	136	7.3	131	7.0	404	7.1	33
San Benito	3	3.7	6	8.1	3	3.8	12	5.1	6
San Bernardino	255	7.9	247	7.9	231	7.7	733	7.8	38
San Diego	301	6.2	313	6.6	226	4.9	840	5.9	14
San Francisco	45	5.0	74	8.2	37	4.3	156	5.8	12
San Joaquin	81	8.5	71	7.6	58	6.4	210	7.5	36
San Luis Obispo	20	7.5	19	7.1	10	3.8	49	6.1	20
San Mateo	41	4.0	33	3.2	51	5.1	125	4.1	4
Santa Barbara	42	6.4	32	5.0	39	6.7	113	6.0	17
Santa Clara	143	5.3	154	5.8	135	5.2	432	5.4	9
Santa Cruz	24	6.2	28	7.6	13	3.7	65	5.9	14
Shasta	11	5.2	17	8.0	14	6.9	42	6.7	27
Sierra	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	NR
Siskiyou	3	5.9	1	2.2	5	10.2	9	6.2	21
Solano	44	7.1	52	8.8	29	5.1	125	7.0	29
Sonoma	32	5.7	29	5.3	24	4.4	85	5.1	6
Stanislaus	43	5.8	62	8.4	43	5.9	148	6.7	27
Sutter	12	10.4	6	4.9	7	6.0	25	7.0	29
Tehama	5	6.3	9	11.7	5	6.9	19	8.3	42
Trinity	1	7.3	0	0.0	1	8.1	2	5.2	NR
Tulare	42	5.8	52	7.1	41	5.7	135	6.2	21
Tuolumne	3	6.4	5	10.7	1	2.0	9	6.3	25
Ventura	67	5.5	57	4.8	65	5.4	189	5.2	8
Yolo	14	6.1	22	9.7	11	5.0	47	7.0	29
Yuba	8	6.3	11	8.9	10	8.4	29	7.8	38
CALIFORNIA	**3,970**	**6.8**	**3,948**	**7.0**	**3,478**	**6.3**	**11,396**	**6.7**	

NR = Numbers too small to be statistically significant

*Rate refers to the number of infants who died in their first year of life per 1,000 live births.

TEEN BIRTHS 1993-95

	1993		1994		1995		1993-95 Average			
County	Births	Rate*	Births	Rate*	Births	Rate*	Births	% of all county births	Rate*	Rank
Alameda	2,053	54	1,911	50	1,991	50	5,955	9%	51	17
Alpine	0	0	1	30	4	105	5	20%	48	NR
Amador	31	41	31	39	35	40	97	12%	40	9
Butte	385	57	330	47	391	53	1,106	15%	53	20
Calaveras	46	38	43	33	52	38	141	13%	36	4
Colusa	46	69	52	75	51	70	149	15%	71	NR
Contra Costa	1,080	41	1,070	39	1,072	38	3,222	9%	39	8
Del Norte	53	63	62	68	63	63	178	18%	65	NR
El Dorado	167	38	167	35	176	34	510	10%	36	4
Fresno	2,678	101	2,654	95	2,633	89	7,965	17%	95	42
Glenn	58	59	64	61	65	60	187	14%	60	NR
Humboldt	221	52	205	46	217	47	643	13%	49	16
Imperial	486	89	430	78	388	69	1,304	16%	79	37
Inyo	27	45	38	60	32	48	97	15%	51	NR
Kern	2,050	95	2,189	95	2,146	90	6,385	17%	93	41
Kings	385	103	392	100	387	95	1,164	17%	99	46
Lake	97	61	122	71	107	58	326	17%	63	26
Lassen	57	62	55	59	62	65	174	19%	62	NR
Los Angeles	22,628	80	22,091	78	21,612	75	66,331	12%	77	35
Madera	390	96	390	92	399	88	1,179	20%	92	40
Marin	121	22	119	22	93	17	333	4%	20	1
Mariposa	17	37	22	44	21	39	60	12%	40	NR
Mendocino	170	60	197	67	202	65	569	17%	64	27
Merced	708	96	751	97	768	95	2,227	18%	96	43
Modoc	22	62	21	55	14	36	57	15%	51	NR
Mono	5	20	8	30	9	32	22	5%	28	NR
Monterey	983	85	972	82	936	76	2,891	14%	81	39
Napa	130	39	142	41	163	46	435	10%	42	11
Nevada	75	29	86	31	86	28	247	10%	29	2
Orange	4,529	62	4,535	62	4,268	57	13,332	9%	60	25
Placer	244	38	244	36	262	36	750	9%	37	6
Plumas	31	46	25	35	31	40	87	16%	40	NR
Riverside	3,381	77	3,424	73	3,409	67	10,214	14%	72	34
Sacramento	2,519	74	2,432	68	2,362	63	7,313	13%	68	32
San Benito	96	63	98	62	113	67	307	13%	64	27
San Bernardino	4,546	84	4,534	80	4,485	74	13,565	14%	79	37
San Diego	5,203	67	5,239	66	4,937	60	15,379	11%	64	27
San Francisco	654	42	669	43	637	42	1,960	7%	42	11
San Joaquin	1,421	80	1,457	78	1,454	74	4,332	16%	77	35
San Luis Obispo	266	36	271	35	273	34	810	10%	35	3
San Mateo	751	42	726	40	719	39	2,196	7%	40	9
Santa Barbara	850	66	797	60	705	52	2,352	13%	59	24
Santa Clara	2,305	53	2,385	54	2,204	49	6,894	9%	52	18
Santa Cruz	418	55	410	53	410	52	1,238	11%	53	20
Shasta	324	59	311	54	300	50	935	15%	54	22
Sierra	5	48	2	17	3	24	10	16%	29	NR
Siskiyou	76	46	80	48	79	46	235	16%	47	15
Solano	740	60	705	55	686	50	2,131	12%	55	23
Sonoma	494	41	548	44	534	41	1,576	10%	42	11
Stanislaus	1,067	74	1,117	73	1,070	66	3,254	15%	71	33
Sutter	159	64	172	67	177	65	508	14%	65	30
Tehama	118	63	145	74	132	64	395	17%	67	31
Trinity	21	46	23	50	16	33	60	16%	43	NR
Tulare	1,320	97	1,441	100	1,380	91	4,141	19%	96	43
Tuolumne	56	36	53	32	80	44	189	13%	37	6
Ventura	1,243	54	1,218	52	1,247	52	3,708	10%	52	18
Yolo	281	44	318	48	275	40	874	13%	44	14
Yuba	232	108	204	90	221	93	657	18%	97	45
CALIFORNIA	**68,519**	**70**	**68,198**	**68**	**66,644**	**64**	**203,361**	**12%**	**67**	

NR = Numbers too small to be statistically significant
*Rate refers to the number of births to teens ages 15-19 per 1,000 females of that age group.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES 1994-96, Public School Grades 9-12

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1994-96 Average	
County	**Rate***	**Rate***	**Rate***	**Rate***	**Rank**
Alameda	3.9	4.3	3.7	4.0	39
Alpine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	NR
Amador	2	1.4	1.0	1.5	4
Butte	6.6	4.9	5.2	5.5	56
Calaveras	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.2	11
Colusa	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.6	7
Contra Costa	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.5	15
Del Norte	6.1	5.1	2.3	4.5	49
El Dorado	3	2.3	2.2	2.5	15
Fresno	5.9	5.2	4.8	5.3	53
Glenn	3.5	4.6	4.7	4.3	45
Humboldt	4	5.1	3.5	4.2	43
Imperial	4	3.0	1.9	3.0	26
Inyo	3.2	2.2	1.8	2.4	13
Kern	7.2	4.5	4.4	5.4	55
Kings	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.5	15
Lake	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8	35
Lassen	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.9	8
Los Angeles	7.1	6.5	5.4	6.4	57
Madera	6.6	6.0	3.5	5.3	53
Marin	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.5	4
Mariposa	3.9	3.7	2.4	3.3	30
Mendocino	3.8	4.4	3.1	3.8	35
Merced	4.5	3.6	3.6	3.9	38
Modoc	0.9	0.9	2.6	1.5	4
Mono	2.8	5.6	2.8	3.8	35
Monterey	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.6	32
Napa	1	1.0	1.4	1.1	2
Nevada	4	3.3	3.5	3.6	32
Orange	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.9	23
Placer	3	2.5	2.1	2.5	15
Plumas	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.2	11
Riverside	3.7	3.3	2.8	3.2	29
Sacramento	5.8	4.7	4.3	4.9	51
San Benito	1.8	1.6	0.9	1.4	3
San Bernardino	4.7	3.9	4.7	4.4	47
San Diego	4.1	4.0	3.0	3.7	34
San Francisco	6.3	5.0	4.1	5.1	52
San Joaquin	6.2	3.2	2.3	3.1	27
San Luis Obispo	3.7	2.1	1.9	2.5	15
San Mateo	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.4	13
Santa Barbara	2.6	3.2	2.8	2.9	23
Santa Clara	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.4	31
Santa Cruz	5.5	3.8	3.3	4.2	43
Shasta	6	4.5	4.0	4.8	50
Sierra	0	2.3	0.7	1.0	1
Siskiyou	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	47
Solano	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.5	15
Sonoma	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	22
Stanislaus	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.0	39
Sutter	3.3	4.1	5.4	4.3	45
Tehama	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	8
Trinity	3.3	1.2	1.7	2.1	10
Tulare	4.8	4.0	3.2	4.0	39
Tuolumne	3.7	1.6	2.1	2.5	15
Ventura	3.1	3.5	2.9	3.1	27
Yolo	5.3	3.7	3.2	4.0	39
Yuba	1.7	4.1	2.7	2.9	23
CALIFORNIA	**4.9**	**4.4**	**3.9**	**4.4**	

*Rate refers to the percentage of students who drop out in one year.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES PREPARED FOR COLLEGE 1994-96

	1994		1995		1996		1994-96 Average	
County	Public HS Grads	Percent Prepared	Public HS Grads	Percent Prepared	Public HS Grads	Percent Prepared	Percent Prepared	Rank
Alameda	9,732	37%	9,564	35%	9,710	36%	36%	13
Alpine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	NR
Amador	269	14%	245	27%	271	36%	25%	48
Butte	1,545	33%	1,677	32%	1,695	36%	34%	20
Calaveras	381	28%	439	29%	415	22%	26%	45
Colusa	215	26%	228	25%	254	31%	27%	43
Contra Costa	7,215	37%	7,402	39%	7,661	44%	40%	6
Del Norte	202	27%	227	39%	271	15%	26%	45
El Dorado	1,301	23%	1,392	30%	1,427	42%	32%	28
Fresno	7,379	27%	7,517	32%	7,395	29%	29%	38
Glenn	305	34%	291	46%	313	44%	41%	3
Humboldt	1,081	23%	1,140	31%	1,195	28%	28%	41
Imperial	1,622	20%	1,477	27%	1,720	27%	25%	48
Inyo	176	26%	211	36%	230	39%	34%	20
Kern	5,938	20%	6,404	17%	6,706	17%	18%	56
Kings	989	29%	1,089	32%	1,094	32%	31%	33
Lake	445	25%	459	30%	481	32%	29%	38
Lassen	287	12%	279	25%	291	31%	23%	51
Los Angeles	68,172	36%	67,091	40%	67,289	40%	39%	8
Madera	922	33%	1,059	28%	1,028	33%	31%	33
Marin	1,431	45%	1,540	47%	1,522	47%	46%	2
Mariposa	117	32%	139	24%	152	30%	28%	41
Mendocino	915	27%	910	37%	949	34%	33%	25
Merced	2,191	20%	2,236	20%	2,230	24%	21%	55
Modoc	129	29%	127	17%	118	36%	27%	43
Mono	60	28%	85	38%	82	54%	41%	3
Monterey	2,517	28%	2,643	29%	2,606	32%	30%	36
Napa	874	37%	921	28%	957	31%	32%	28
Nevada	717	34%	755	41%	786	40%	39%	8
Orange	22,429	33%	22,080	35%	22,297	35%	34%	20
Placer	1,947	32%	2,231	36%	2,420	38%	36%	13
Plumas	201	32%	238	42%	238	33%	36%	13
Riverside	11,028	31%	11,564	29%	11,894	28%	30%	36
Sacramento	8,525	35%	8,464	35%	8,508	37%	36%	13
San Benito	410	33%	405	41%	415	34%	36%	13
San Bernardino	13,897	21%	14,525	23%	15,034	23%	22%	54
San Diego	20,380	30%	20,464	36%	20,957	35%	34%	20
San Francisco	3,639	47%	3,423	55%	3,572	49%	50%	1
San Joaquin	4,302	24%	4,386	28%	4,460	27%	26%	45
San Luis Obispo	1,590	29%	1,683	34%	1,828	33%	32%	28
San Mateo	4,509	39%	4,798	40%	4,497	45%	41%	3
Santa Barbara	2,686	35%	2,655	35%	2,828	35%	35%	19
Santa Clara	12,765	36%	12,541	39%	12,325	42%	39%	8
Santa Cruz	1,679	28%	1,770	33%	1,899	38%	33%	25
Shasta	1,414	24%	1,516	35%	1,574	33%	31%	33
Sierra	46	37%	47	30%	37	43%	36%	13
Siskiyou	425	33%	472	43%	460	43%	40%	6
Solano	3,229	29%	3,220	33%	3,235	32%	32%	28
Sonoma	3,108	38%	3,201	41%	3,228	38%	39%	8
Stanislaus	4,046	19%	4,207	26%	4,331	24%	23%	51
Sutter	809	19%	720	22%	801	27%	23%	51
Tehama	474	21%	548	23%	561	29%	24%	50
Trinity	147	28%	158	31%	126	38%	32%	28
Tulare	3,401	27%	3,627	28%	3,749	31%	29%	38
Tuolumne	431	30%	478	31%	478	37%	33%	25
Ventura	6,578	36%	6,469	39%	6,733	36%	37%	12
Yolo	1,288	34%	1,277	35%	1,284	33%	34%	20
Yuba	474	16%	486	11%	454	17%	15%	57
CALIFORNIA	**252,984**	**32%**	**255,200**	**35%**	**259,071**	**35%**	**34%**	

K-12 EDUCATION

	1994-96 average class size		1996 per pupil expenditure		1996 students w/ limited English proficiency
County	Number	Rank	Dollars	Rank	Percent
Alameda	28.5	42	$4,519	14	18%
Alpine	19.2	2	$8,818	1	0%
Amador	26.1	19	$3,646	58	1%
Butte	27.7	27	$4,033	52	10%
Calaveras	26.3	20	$3,784	57	1%
Colusa	22.3	7	$4,245	29	30%
Contra Costa	29.3	52	$4,193	35	9%
Del Norte	28.4	41	$4,480	15	5%
El Dorado	28.5	42	$4,120	44	4%
Fresno	27.9	32	$4,263	26	27%
Glenn	24.2	11	$4,266	25	17%
Humboldt	25.3	14	$4,298	22	3%
Imperial	27.8	28	$4,213	32	48%
Inyo	22.9	8	$5,423	4	6%
Kern	28.0	35	$4,212	33	18%
Kings	27.3	24	$4,221	31	16%
Lake	24.7	13	$4,291	23	4%
Lassen	24.1	10	$4,551	13	2%
Los Angeles	29.7	55	$4,428	18	36%
Madera	28.8	47	$4,143	41	25%
Marin	26.0	17	$5,338	6	9%
Mariposa	24.5	12	$4,799	10	0%
Mendocino	23.9	9	$4,972	8	11%
Merced	27.8	28	$4,174	37	33%
Modoc	20.1	3	$5,405	5	12%
Mono	21.2	4	$5,269	7	8%
Monterey	27.9	32	$4,365	20	34%
Napa	28.2	39	$3,937	56	18%
Nevada	27.6	26	$4,187	36	0%
Orange	30.5	57	$4,060	48	30%
Placer	28.1	37	$3,962	54	3%
Plumas	27.1	23	$4,629	12	1%
Riverside	30.6	58	$4,059	49	19%
Sacramento	28.8	47	$4,256	27	16%
San Benito	28.7	46	$4,140	42	18%
San Bernardino	30.1	56	$4,086	47	15%
San Diego	29.5	54	$4,383	19	21%
San Francisco	25.9	16	$4,839	9	30%
San Joaquin	28.6	45	$4,197	34	22%
San Luis Obispo	27.0	22	$4,315	21	8%
San Mateo	28.3	40	$4,444	16	21%
Santa Barbara	27.5	25	$4,153	39	25%
Santa Clara	28.9	49	$4,442	17	22%
Santa Cruz	29.1	50	$4,267	24	26%
Shasta	27.8	28	$4,144	40	3%
Sierra	17.1	1	$6,018	2	0%
Siskiyou	22.2	6	$4,778	11	1%
Solano	28.5	42	$4,098	45	8%
Sonoma	27.8	28	$4,161	38	11%
Stanislaus	29.3	52	$3,955	55	18%
Sutter	26.8	21	$4,057	50	19%
Tehama	26.0	17	$4,234	30	7%
Trinity	22.0	5	$5,636	3	0%
Tulare	27.9	32	$4,036	51	24%
Tuolumne	25.6	15	$4,256	27	1%
Ventura	29.1	50	$3,993	53	21%
Yolo	28.1	38	$4,089	46	20%
Yuba	28.0	35	$4,140	42	23%
CALIFORNIA	**29.1**		**$4,287**		**24%**

CHILD ABUSE 1994-96

	1994		1995		1996		1994-96 Average	
County	Reports	Rate*	Reports	Rate*	Reports	Rate*	Rate*	Rank
Alameda	19,465	56	19,176	54	14,120	39	49	5
Alpine	78	227	114	330	115	318	292	NR
Amador	394	60	404	60	485	69	63	12
Butte	9,722	199	8,833	177	8,546	167	181	52
Calaveras	1,318	130	1,219	115	1,255	110	118	41
Colusa	504	85	468	75	415	63	74	19
Contra Costa	18,271	81	19,369	84	20,382	87	84	22
Del Norte	1,364	153	1,219	133	1,135	121	136	44
El Dorado	2,649	66	2,880	70	2,686	63	66	15
Fresno	21,733	87	22,399	87	26,547	99	91	30
Glenn	1,096	126	1,108	124	1,042	114	121	42
Humboldt	4,679	134	5,842	165	7,043	198	166	50
Imperial	2,045	45	2,575	55	2,812	59	53	8
Inyo	473	92	515	96	498	88	92	33
Kern	9,856	47	8,383	39	13,491	60	49	5
Kings	2,815	79	2,987	82	4,029	106	89	27
Lake	1,647	114	3,201	216	3,059	200	177	51
Lassen	1,270	176	1,383	189	1,467	198	188	53
Los Angeles	164,716	64	180,586	68	191,921	71	68	17
Madera	3,289	99	3,570	104	4,010	113	105	35
Marin	2,356	44	2,017	37	1,968	36	39	1
Mariposa	541	132	489	116	547	128	125	43
Mendocino	2,725	114	3,535	145	3,721	151	137	45
Merced	7,847	111	9,520	130	8,017	106	116	39
Modoc	508	189	522	193	308	114	165	NR
Mono	163	64	220	83	220	80	76	NR
Monterey	8,592	75	9,757	83	9,142	76	78	20
Napa	1,158	40	1,187	41	1,217	41	41	2
Nevada	1,785	82	1,996	89	1,849	80	84	22
Orange	38,758	57	34,541	50	31,847	45	50	7
Placer	4,752	86	3,399	60	2,994	51	65	14
Plumas	720	134	625	116	521	98	116	39
Riverside	23,626	53	28,756	60	26,805	54	56	10
Sacramento	28,366	90	27,384	85	33,000	100	91	30
San Benito	626	48	860	64	734	54	55	9
San Bernardino	50,725	93	48,273	83	48,825	81	85	24
San Diego	77,749	111	81,969	114	84,766	115	113	37
San Francisco	8,674	67	8,563	64	7,929	58	63	12
San Joaquin	14,888	91	14,644	87	13,668	79	86	25
San Luis Obispo	7,589	143	7,330	135	7,774	140	139	47
San Mateo	8,144	52	7,513	47	6,803	41	47	4
Santa Barbara	8,337	85	9,671	96	9,328	90	90	29
Santa Clara	22,538	56	24,634	60	22,700	54	57	11
Santa Cruz	5,546	93	5,950	98	5,652	91	94	34
Shasta	6,804	144	6,814	141	6,337	128	138	46
Sierra	61	73	110	135	87	106	104	NR
Siskiyou	1,354	115	1,411	119	969	82	105	35
Solano	4,129	35	5,315	44	5,676	45	42	3
Sonoma	8,259	76	7,471	67	7,184	63	69	18
Stanislaus	11,177	82	10,293	73	11,743	80	78	20
Sutter	2,004	91	2,118	93	2,121	90	91	30
Tehama	2,801	179	1,969	122	2,041	124	141	48
Trinity	803	229	671	191	653	185	202	54
Tulare	9,403	78	10,659	85	13,198	102	89	27
Tuolumne	1,278	100	1,734	132	1,450	107	113	37
Ventura	14,175	71	13,913	69	12,941	63	67	16
Yolo	4,057	97	3,835	88	3,656	80	88	26
Yuba	3,892	170	4,106	171	3,469	138	159	49
CALIFORNIA	**664,294**	**74**	**690,005**	**75**	**706,918**	**75**	**75**	

NR = Numbers too small to be statistically significant
*Rate refers to the number of child abuse reports per 1,000 children.

FOSTER CARE 1994-96

	1994		1995		1996		1994-96 Average		1994-96 avg. mos. in placement	
County	Children	Rate*	Children	Rate*	Children	Rate*	Rate*	Rank	Months	Rank
Alameda	3,612	10.4	3,789	10.6	3,885	10.7	10.6	47	32.0	49
Alpine	15	43.7	12	34.8	7	19.3	32.4	NR	19.0	NR
Amador	29	4.4	26	3.8	33	4.7	4.3	12	9.7	1
Butte	393	8.0	625	12.5	758	14.8	11.8	50	16.7	5
Calaveras	60	5.9	64	6.0	75	6.6	6.2	27	12.4	2
Colusa	23	3.9	23	3.7	26	3.9	3.8	10	26.4	37
Contra Costa	2,252	10.0	2,200	9.6	2,154	9.2	9.6	41	31.0	46
Del Norte	77	8.7	101	11.0	112	12.0	10.6	47	18.9	13
El Dorado	221	5.5	214	5.2	250	5.9	5.5	22	19.9	15
Fresno	2,230	9.0	2,511	9.7	2,803	10.5	9.7	44	20.5	16
Glenn	54	6.2	71	7.9	78	8.5	7.6	33	24.7	33
Humboldt	338	9.7	344	9.7	317	8.9	9.4	39	25.0	34
Imperial	189	4.2	207	4.5	198	4.2	4.3	12	31.3	47
Inyo	19	3.7	16	3.0	15	2.6	3.1	2	20.9	19
Kern	1,547	7.4	1,662	7.7	1,701	7.6	7.6	33	35.2	51
Kings	194	5.4	215	5.9	216	5.7	5.7	24	36.5	54
Lake	126	8.7	151	10.2	132	8.6	9.2	38	20.7	17
Lassen	103	14.3	94	12.8	100	13.5	13.5	51	16.8	6
Los Angeles	41,085	15.9	43,483	16.5	44,864	16.5	16.3	53	25.0	34
Madera	153	4.6	177	5.2	134	3.8	4.5	15	24.0	30
Marin	211	4.0	206	3.8	173	3.1	3.6	5	18.3	7
Mariposa	11	2.7	32	7.6	39	9.1	6.5	29	13.6	3
Mendocino	265	11.1	274	11.2	284	11.5	11.3	49	27.6	38
Merced	473	6.7	362	5.0	360	4.7	5.4	20	20.7	17
Modoc	3	1.1	5	1.9	1	0.4	1.1	NR	n/a	NR
Mono	16	6.3	12	4.5	13	4.7	5.2	NR	31.0	NR
Monterey	261	2.3	290	2.5	355	2.9	2.6	1	18.7	9
Napa	143	5.0	150	5.2	169	5.7	5.3	18	29.7	44
Nevada	68	3.1	81	3.6	90	3.9	3.6	5	16.6	4
Orange	2,682	4.0	3,116	4.5	3,182	4.4	4.3	12	27.7	39
Placer	326	5.9	269	4.7	327	5.6	5.4	20	23.9	29
Plumas	27	5.0	30	5.6	33	6.2	5.6	23	25.1	36
Riverside	3,014	6.8	3,193	6.7	3,433	6.9	6.8	30	18.9	13
Sacramento	3,076	9.7	3,146	9.7	3,034	9.2	9.5	40	33.7	50
San Benito	39	3.0	51	3.8	56	4.1	3.6	5	29.8	45
San Bernardino	3,759	6.9	4,214	7.3	4,171	6.9	7.0	32	22.5	23
San Diego	5,654	8.1	5,913	8.2	5,693	7.7	8.0	35	24.6	32
San Francisco	3,722	28.9	3,301	24.8	3,231	23.6	25.7	54	35.6	52
San Joaquin	1,664	10.2	1,627	9.7	1,534	8.9	9.6	41	31.3	47
San Luis Obispo	317	6.0	333	6.1	391	7.1	6.4	28	21.8	21
San Mateo	644	4.1	588	3.7	533	3.2	3.7	8	23.5	26
Santa Barbara	387	3.9	371	3.7	379	3.7	3.7	8	29.3	43
Santa Clara	2,390	6.0	2,365	5.8	2,380	5.7	5.8	25	28.8	42
Santa Cruz	279	4.7	317	5.2	355	5.7	5.2	17	18.7	9
Shasta	357	7.6	411	8.5	398	8.0	8.0	35	18.5	8
Sierra	9	10.8	10	12.2	9	10.9	11.3	NR	13.5	NR
Siskiyou	146	12.4	188	15.9	208	17.6	15.3	52	22.5	23
Solano	485	4.2	458	3.8	491	3.9	3.9	11	36.0	53
Sonoma	353	3.2	402	3.6	427	3.8	3.5	4	27.8	40
Stanislaus	710	5.2	805	5.7	718	4.9	5.3	18	22.2	22
Sutter	111	5.0	175	7.7	180	7.6	6.8	30	23.7	28
Tehama	123	7.8	128	7.9	187	11.4	9.1	37	22.7	25
Trinity	34	9.7	40	11.4	35	9.9	10.3	46	24.2	31
Tulare	1,089	9.0	1,396	11.1	1,231	9.6	9.9	45	18.8	12
Tuolumne	61	4.8	70	5.3	68	5.0	5.0	16	18.7	9
Ventura	658	3.3	653	3.2	601	2.9	3.1	2	23.6	27
Yolo	232	5.6	278	6.3	289	6.4	6.1	26	21.0	20
Yuba	209	9.1	237	9.9	243	9.6	9.6	41	28.0	41
CALIFORNIA	**86,728**	**9.7**	**91,482**	**10.0**	**93,159**	**9.9**	**9.8**		**25.5**	

NR = Numbers too small to be statistically significant
*Rate refers to the number of children in foster care per 1,000 children.

GUN-RELATED INCIDENTS RESULTING IN CHILD INJURY OR DEATH 1994-95

	Non-Fatal				Fatal			
County	Assault	Self-inflicted	Accidental	Total*	Assault	Self-inflicted	Accidental	Total*
Alameda	65	1	11	86	26	2	3	31
Alpine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Butte	2	0	4	7	1	1	3	5
Calaveras	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Colusa	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Contra Costa	51	2	16	72	16	3	5	24
Del Norte	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
El Dorado	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	4
Fresno	106	0	17	133	27	9	1	37
Glenn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	2	2	3	7	4	3	0	7
Imperial	4	0	5	9	4	1	0	5
Inyo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kern	46	2	8	56	10	3	5	18
Kings	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
Lake	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Lassen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	1,240	10	162	1,443	413	33	9	456
Madera	3	0	4	7	3	2	1	6
Marin	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2
Mariposa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mendocino	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Merced	11	0	7	18	3	0	1	4
Modoc	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Mono	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monterey	21	0	5	26	10	3	0	13
Napa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevada	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Orange	129	3	34	168	31	7	2	40
Placer	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
Plumas	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Riverside	59	2	26	92	29	6	3	39
Sacramento	77	1	24	114	23	4	0	29
San Benito	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
San Bernardino	128	7	50	204	50	13	13	81
San Diego	95	2	24	126	22	15	1	39
San Francisco	34	0	10	47	4	2	1	7
San Joaquin	49	0	8	57	12	2	7	21
San Luis Obispo	1	1	5	7	0	1	0	1
San Mateo	8	1	2	11	6	4	2	12
Santa Barbara	5	0	2	8	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	31	4	13	48	7	7	1	15
Santa Cruz	8	0	3	11	0	0	0	0
Shasta	3	3	2	8	1	2	1	4
Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Siskiyou	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Solano	9	1	8	20	5	3	3	12
Sonoma	2	0	2	4	1	4	2	7
Stanislaus	19	1	7	27	2	0	3	6
Sutter	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Tehama	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Trinity	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tulare	7	0	11	20	4	2	3	9
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ventura	19	0	10	32	9	2	0	11
Yolo	4	0	2	6	0	0	0	0
Yuba	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	1
CALIFORNIA	**2,248**	**45**	**499**	**2,900**	**730**	**141**	**74**	**959**

*Total includes additional injuries and deaths resulting from legal intervention and also from incidents of undetermined intent.

YOUTH ARRESTS 1995

				Drug-related arrests	Violent crime arrests
County	**Number**	**Rate***	**Rank**	**Percent**	**Percent**
Alameda	10,158	74	25	7%	8%
Alpine	28	176	57	29%	0%
Amador	182	53	11	15%	3%
Butte	1,548	67	16	8%	5%
Calaveras	158	32	3	12%	2%
Colusa	172	67	16	5%	4%
Contra Costa	6,727	68	19	8%	8%
Del Norte	207	52	9	10%	3%
El Dorado	1,282	70	22	12%	4%
Fresno	14,143	134	55	7%	6%
Glenn	380	100	46	4%	3%
Humboldt	1,408	90	38	6%	4%
Imperial	1,831	97	43	14%	8%
Inyo	226	102	48	6%	4%
Kern	4,480	52	9	8%	7%
Kings	2,922	199	58	5%	3%
Lake	535	81	30	9%	4%
Lassen	358	98	45	4%	5%
Los Angeles	56,563	57	13	11%	13%
Madera	1,234	83	32	6%	8%
Marin	1,957	97	43	9%	4%
Mariposa	95	49	7	5%	7%
Mendocino	1,103	100	46	10%	7%
Merced	3,565	119	52	5%	5%
Modoc	19	14	1	11%	0%
Mono	34	31	2	12%	0%
Monterey	4,050	90	38	8%	7%
Napa	458	36	4	9%	4%
Nevada	848	79	28	12%	4%
Orange	18,680	73	24	9%	6%
Placer	1,753	68	19	11%	5%
Plumas	184	70	22	8%	3%
Riverside	8,243	44	6	10%	7%
Sacramento	8,178	62	14	7%	9%
San Benito	470	82	31	10%	5%
San Bernardino	14,997	67	16	8%	10%
San Diego	21,726	75	27	10%	7%
San Francisco	4,368	88	36	13%	20%
San Joaquin	6,199	87	34	7%	8%
San Luis Obispo	1,622	63	15	14%	4%
San Mateo	5,024	79	28	7%	6%
Santa Barbara	3,950	94	40	9%	5%
Santa Clara	14,882	95	41	11%	7%
Santa Cruz	2,708	107	50	10%	5%
Shasta	2,988	139	56	5%	5%
Sierra	52	117	51	13%	8%
Siskiyou	502	87	34	7%	5%
Solano	5,162	104	49	7%	8%
Sonoma	4,065	86	33	10%	6%
Stanislaus	7,422	128	54	6%	5%
Sutter	487	51	8	6%	8%
Tehama	533	74	25	6%	2%
Trinity	68	40	5	9%	10%
Tulare	6,418	121	53	6%	3%
Tuolumne	335	54	12	6%	1%
Ventura	7,385	89	37	12%	4%
Yolo	1,844	95	41	7%	5%
Yuba	612	69	21	8%	4%
CALIFORNIA	267,528	74		9%	8%

*Rate refers to the number of 10-17 year olds arrested per 1,000 children of that age group.

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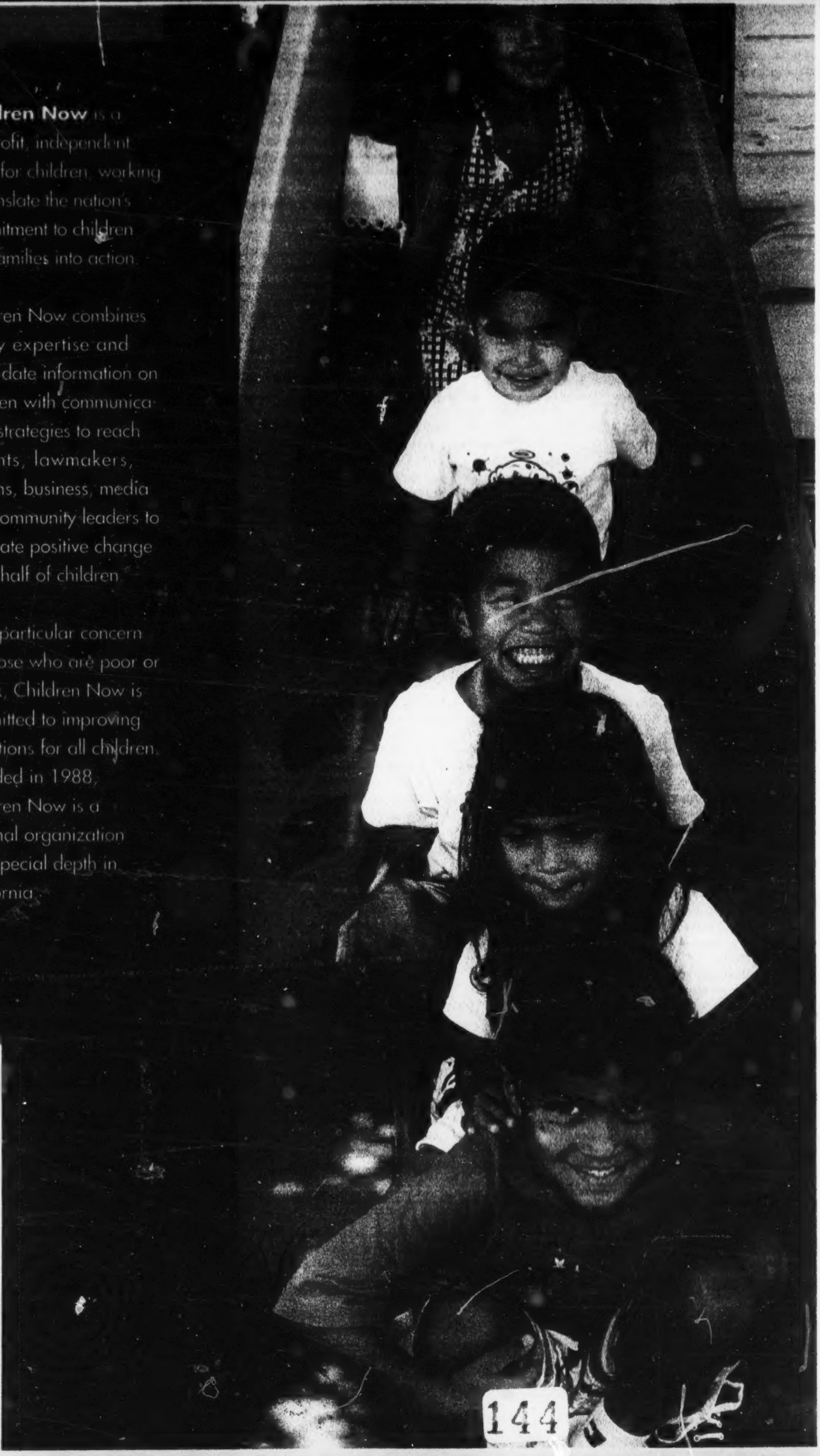
overview

Children Now is a nonprofit, independent voice for children, working to translate the nation's commitment to children and families into action.

Children Now combines policy expertise and up-to-date information on children with communications strategies to reach parents, lawmakers, citizens, business, media and community leaders to generate positive change on behalf of children.

With particular concern for those who are poor or at risk, Children Now is committed to improving conditions for all children. Founded in 1988, Children Now is a national organization with special depth in California.



1998: County Leadership Put to the Test

Since 1989, Children Now has tracked the status of California's children through our annual *California Report Card*. Each year we examine indicators of child well-being in the areas of family economics, health, education and safety. To the extent possible, we focus on indicators that reflect outcomes, not simply money spent or effort made. Together the indicators provide a comprehensive picture of our children's well-being. They also show that children's needs are interrelated and cannot be addressed in isolation.

In 1997, it is more critical than ever to pay special attention to the condition of children and their families on a county level. As a result of welfare reform, the state has turned over substantial service program authority to the counties, creating a greater need to know how children are faring at the county level. Even in issue areas not directly affected by welfare reform, such as education, the increased prevalence of county-level planning efforts will heighten the demand for local information on all aspects of children's well-being.

Report Card 1997 provides highlights of the detailed county-by-county information found in our companion publication *California County Data Book '97*. These documents are designed to help state and local policymakers, the media and all Californians better understand the status of children in their area and to help all individuals take appropriate action to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

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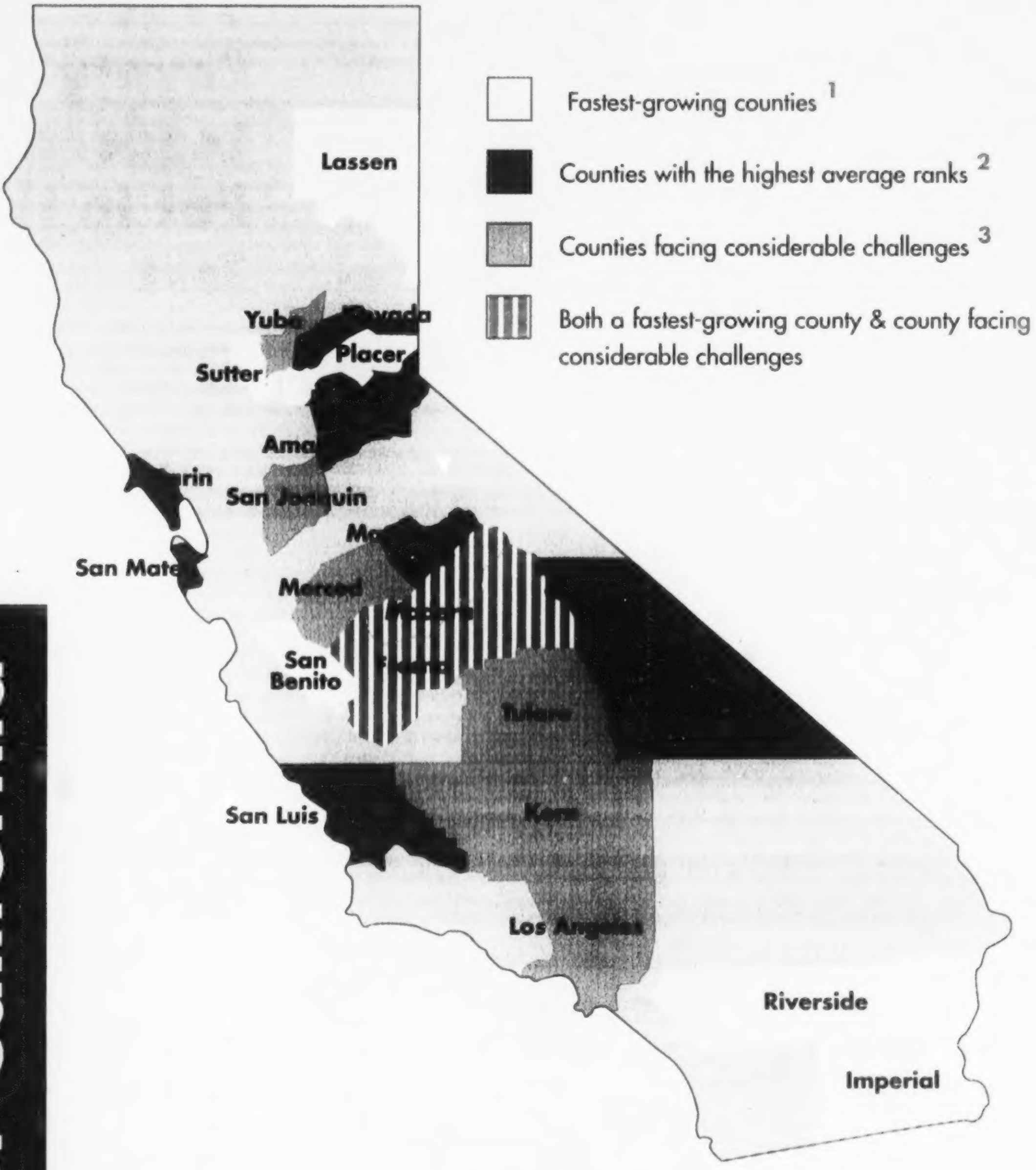
snapshot of California


□ Fastest-growing counties [1]
■ Counties with the highest average ranks [2]
▨ Counties facing considerable challenges [3]
▥ Both a fastest-growing county & county facing considerable challenges
Lassen
Yuba
Nevada
Placer
Sutter
Ama
rin
San Joaquin
Mo
San Mate
Merced
Madera
San Benito
Fresno
Tulare
San Luis
Kern
Los Angeles
Riverside
Imperial

[1] Based on the percentage population change from 1990 to 1996

[2] Based on 17 ranked indicators of children's well-being presented in *California County Data Book '97*, these eight counties had the highest average ranks.

[3] Based on 17 ranked indicators of children's well-being presented in *California County Data Book '97*, these eight counties had the lowest average ranks.

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California is among the nation's most diverse states, with a rich variety of cultures and ethnic heritages represented in its 58 counties. California is also dynamic, with fast-growing regions found throughout the state. One in eight of the nation's children resides in California; by the year 2025, estimates project one in five of the nation's children will live in the state.

By the year 2025, one in five of the nation's children will live in California.

38% of children live in counties facing considerable challenges.

Ten percent (10%) of California children, almost one million, live in the fastest-growing counties:

1. Imperial
2. Madera
3. Placer
4. San Benito
5. Lassen
6. Riverside
7. Sutter
8. Fresno

Less than 4% of children, just over 350,000, live in counties with the highest ranks:

1. Marin
2. Amador
3. Mariposa
4. San Luis Obispo
5. San Mateo
6. El Dorado
7. Inyo
8. Nevada

Over 38% of children, more than 3.6 million, live in the counties facing considerable challenges:

1. Yuba
2. Fresno
3. Tulare
4. San Joaquin
5. Kern
6. Los Angeles
7. Merced
8. Madera

family economics

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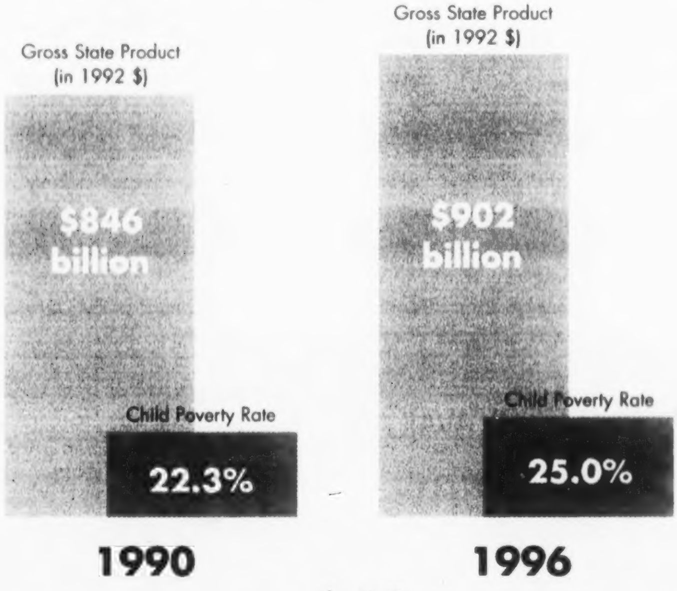
After a deep recession in the early 1990's, California's economy is once again booming. In 1997, the state's total economy surpassed one trillion dollars for the first time — an economic output equal to the entire continent of South America. Yet, many families with children are not sharing in the new wealth. Of California's 9.5 million* children, fully one-quarter live in poverty (an annual income of $15,600 or less for a family of four). Nearly another quarter of children (46% total) live in families with incomes low enough to qualify for subsidized school meals ($29,000 or less annually for a family of four).

In 1997, California's total economy surpassed one trillion dollars.

25% of California children live in poverty.

Gross State Product in CA vs. Child Poverty Rate



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* Children Now uses California Department of Finance 1993 county population projections for 1996 in this report. Some population figures are different than data more recently published elsewhere.

Many families are squeezed by high housing and child care costs.

Family Budgets

Most poor children have at least one parent who works, yet 1.2 million children have a parent earning the minimum wage. Even middle-income families feel squeezed by California's high housing prices and rents, child care costs and other expenses — especially those in the high-cost counties.

Monthly income for full-time, minimum wage work: $858*
Rent alone often exceeds $858.
Child care averages an additional $400-$600.

High-Cost Counties	Avg. Monthly Rent (2-bdrm apt)	Monthly Preschool Care Cost	Monthly Infant Care Cost
Los Angeles	$854	$386	$550
Marin	$965	$555	$754
San Francisco	$965	$542	$780
San Mateo	$965	$485	$745
Santa Clara	$918	$490	$702
Santa Cruz	$964	$490	$698
California	N/A	$407	$585

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* Gross wages for 40 hours/week, 50 weeks/year at $5.15/hour.

County Economies

Some counties face particular economic stress—with more poor children, higher unemployment rates and more job seekers competing for each new job. County officials in these areas will face particularly difficult dilemmas in trying to help parents now receiving public assistance secure employment and become self-sufficient.

Counties under Economic Stress	Job Seekers/Job	Unemployment Rate	% Children Receiving AFDC*
Fresno	17	12.4%	33%
Imperial	26	24.6%	30%
Kings	18	12.9%	22%
Lake	14	10.2%	32%
Madera	21	13.4%	23%
Merced	27	14.1%	33%
San Joaquin	13	10.8%	29%
Tulare	18	13.9%	30%
Yuba	20	12.8%	33%
California	7	6.2%	20%

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* AFDC refers to Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the name of the nation's cash aid program until 1996. The program was replaced by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in August 1996.

The average county collects just $78 monthly for each child support order.

Child support enforcement varies widely from county to county. In six counties, over 80% of their child support cases have a child support court order in place, an important first step in collecting support. However, in ten counties — where nearly half of all children in need of support reside — at least fifty percent of the families awaiting assistance do not have a court order for support.

Once an order is in place, the amount of money actually collected on behalf of children varies widely. The top five counties collect between $131 and $150 per order for payment (each case represents an average of 1.5 children). The five least successful counties collect just $41 to $62 per family.

Top collections per order	
Plumas	$150
Marin	$149
Santa Cruz	$134
Mono	$133
Humboldt	$131

Lowest collections per order	
Nevada	$62
Kern	$57
Riverside	$50
Modoc	$42
Yuba	$41

health

In September 1997, the California Legislature and Governor enacted the new Healthy Families program, which will offer subsidized health insurance coverage to about 580,000 uninsured children in low-income families. The Legislature also modestly streamlined the Medi-Cal application process, partially reducing the barriers to enrollment for more than 500,000 children now eligible for but unenrolled in Medi-Cal. Approximately 500,000 uninsured children will remain ineligible for publicly subsidized insurance.

About 500,000 uninsured children in California remain ineligible for subsidized coverage.

Children without health insurance:

- Are three times more likely than insured children to be without a regular source of health care;
- Are more than two and one-half times more likely than privately insured children to have used no health services in one year; and
- Receive only 70% of the outpatient visits and 71% of the care for serious injuries compared to their insured peers.

California remains behind the national goal on childhood immunizations.

Low birthweight infants

The percentage of infants born at a low birthweight has not improved since 1990. Low birthweight is a key indicator of a newborn's health and a factor in an infant's chances for survival. In 1995, just 13 California counties had met the national goal of no more than five percent low weight births.

Infant mortality

From 1994 to 1995, California's infant mortality rate dropped from 7.0 to 6.3 infant deaths per 1,000 births. This rate is considerably lower than the U.S. rate of 7.6 in 1995 and was the lowest among the nation's ten largest states. During the same period in California, the infant mortality rate among African-Americans, who suffer the highest infant death rate, also declined, from 15.2 to 14.1 per 1,000 births.

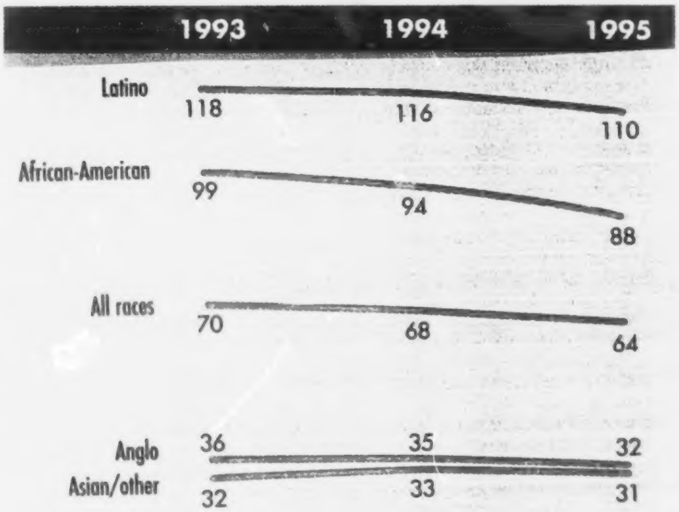
Immunizations

California's childhood immunization rate remains far below the national goal of 90% coverage of two-year-olds by the year 2000. In 1996, just 57% of California's five-year-olds had been fully immunized by age two. The five most successful counties for achieving childhood immunizations, according to this indicator, are located in the Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara. Those with the lowest rates are Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Sierra.

Teen births decreased for young women of all ethnicities.

Teen births

Following a national trend, California's teen birth rate* decreased steadily from 1993 through 1995. This trend held true for young women of all ethnicities. Such a decline is positive news as teen parenthood puts two generations at risk. Teen parents are less likely than their peers to complete high school and families headed by teen parents are more likely to live in poverty.



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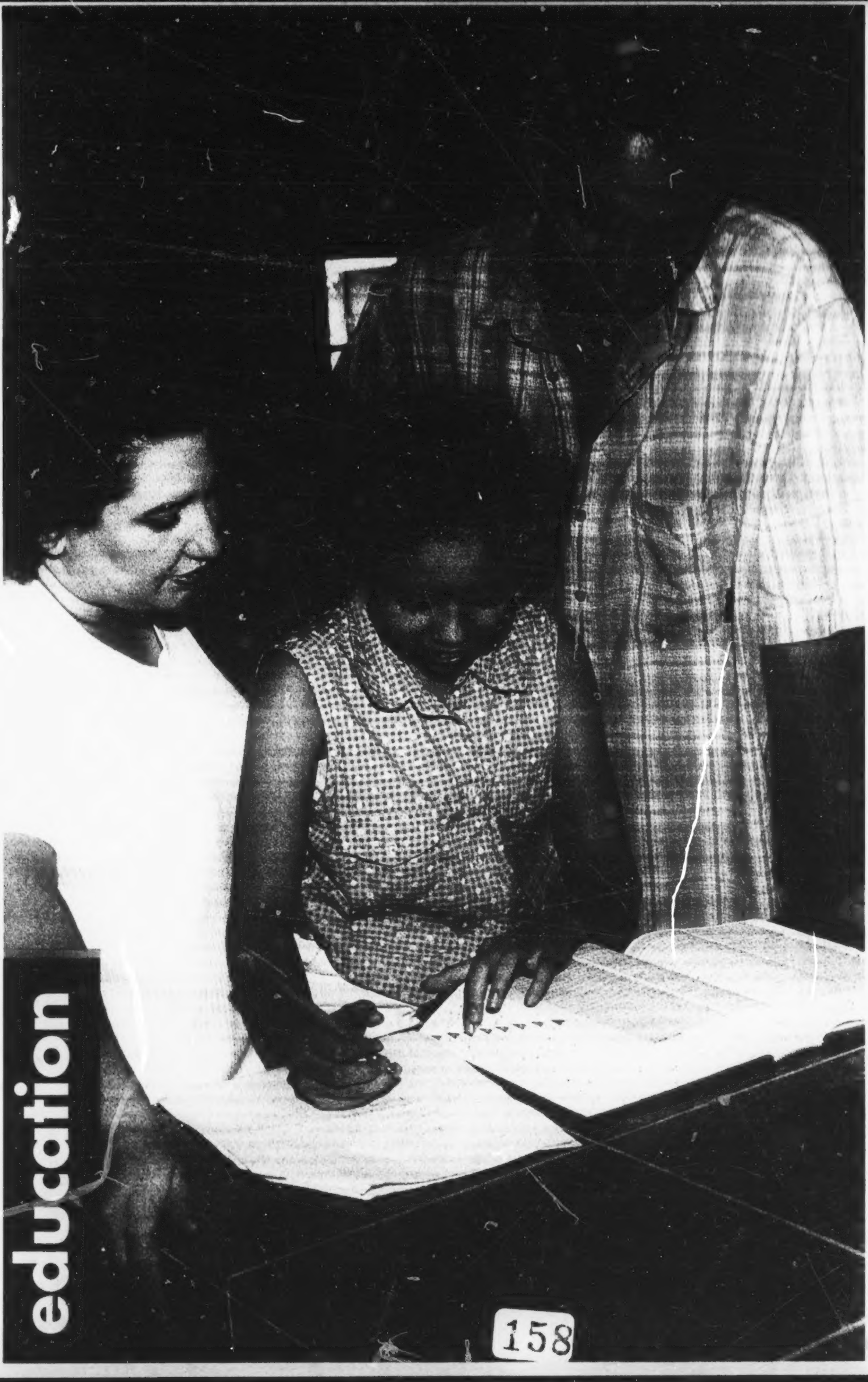
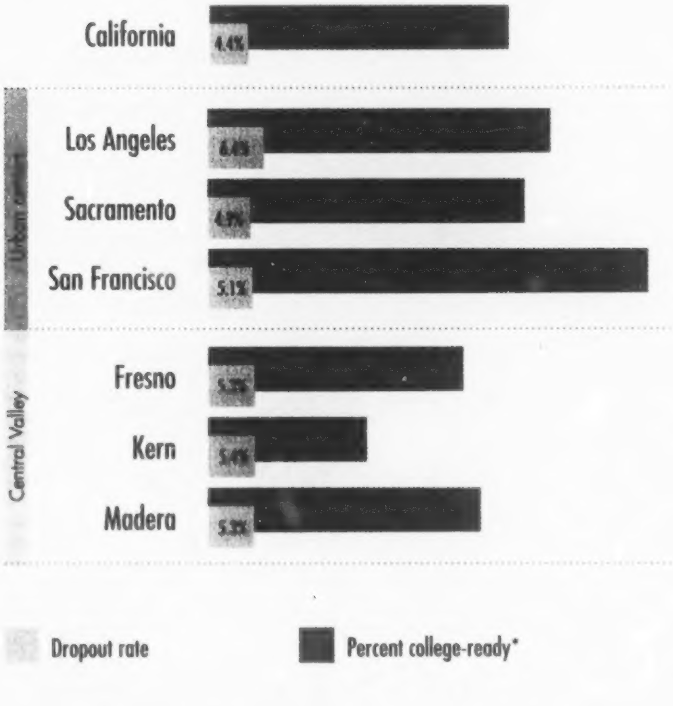
* The teen birth rate is the number of births to teens ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in this age range.


education

The **dropout rate is steadily improving** across the state.

There has been a steady improvement in the overall dropout rate and for youngsters of all ethnic groups. Completion of high school is a prerequisite for higher education and increases a young person's chance of securing a job paying a wage that can support a family.

However, the state's urban areas continue to experience a disparity among their students: urban areas have the highest rates of young people dropping out of school, while they also have the largest percentage of graduates who have taken the courses necessary to enter a state university. Some of the Central Valley counties experience poor records in both educational areas.



* College-ready means that a graduating student has passed the academic courses required to enter a California state university.

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Increased school funding still leaves California $1,000 less per pupil than the national average.

The average class size for grades K-12 has remained at a high of 29 students per class for the past three years. Most counties with the largest classes are located in Southern California: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego are among the seven counties with the largest class sizes. In 1996, California increased its expenditures per pupil by almost $200 over the previous year; however, the state still spent approximately $1,000 less per pupil than the national average ($4,977 compared to $6,103).*

Student achievement scores are not available on a county-by-county basis. However, recent state performance tests show that California has considerable work to do to improve the competitiveness of our students. In recent math and science tests, California 8th graders scored 32nd and 36th respectively (out of 42) among the states.

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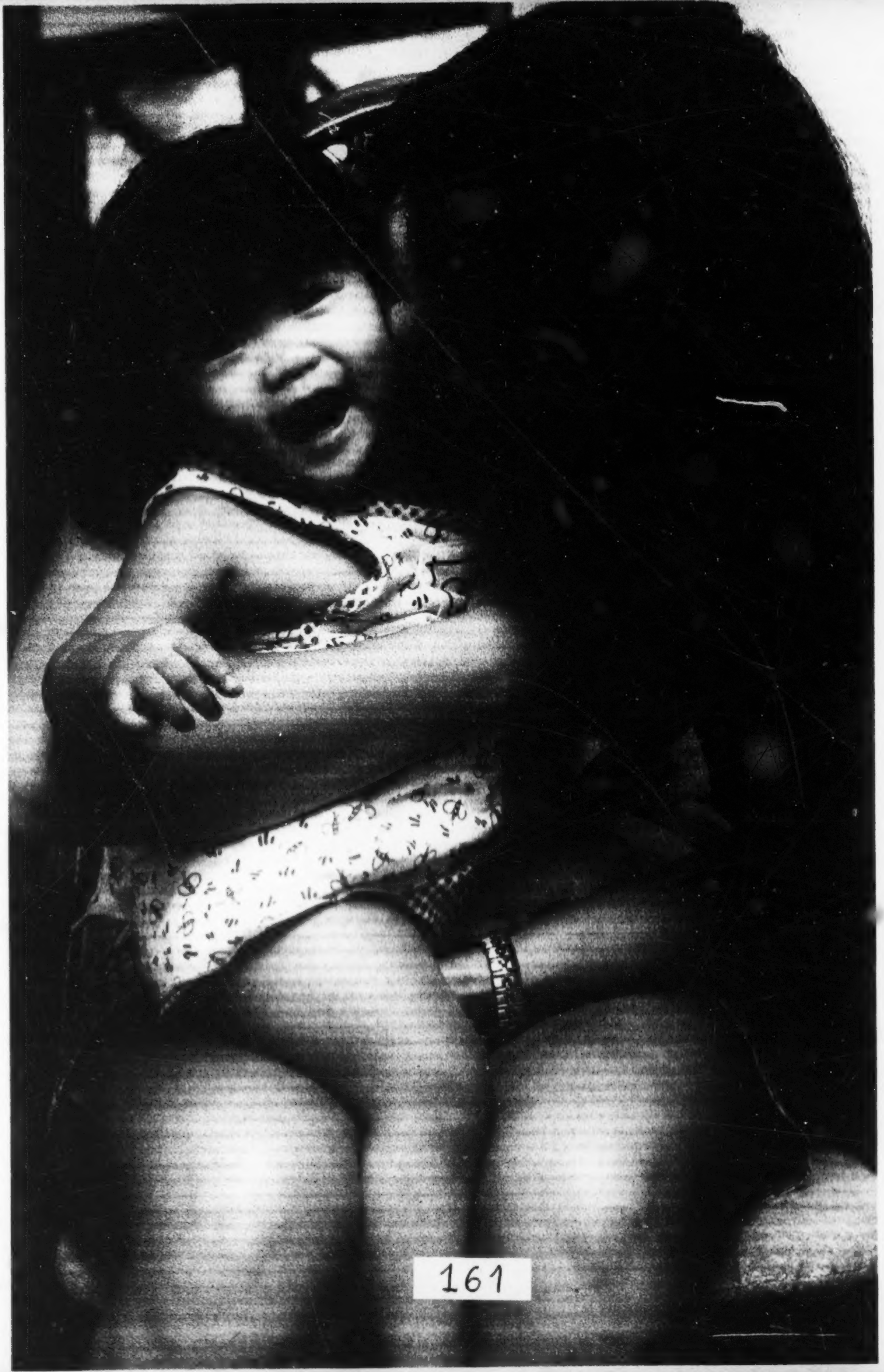
* The county statistics on per-pupil expenditure in the *California County Data Book* are slightly different than these figures used for state-by-state comparisons; the county statistics exclude some non-instruction costs.



safety

The child abuse report rate, which had climbed steadily for over a decade, leveled off in the past two years. Still, the number for the state remains astonishingly high. For every 1,000 children, there were 75 reports of abuse in 1996 — a total of 706,918 reports.

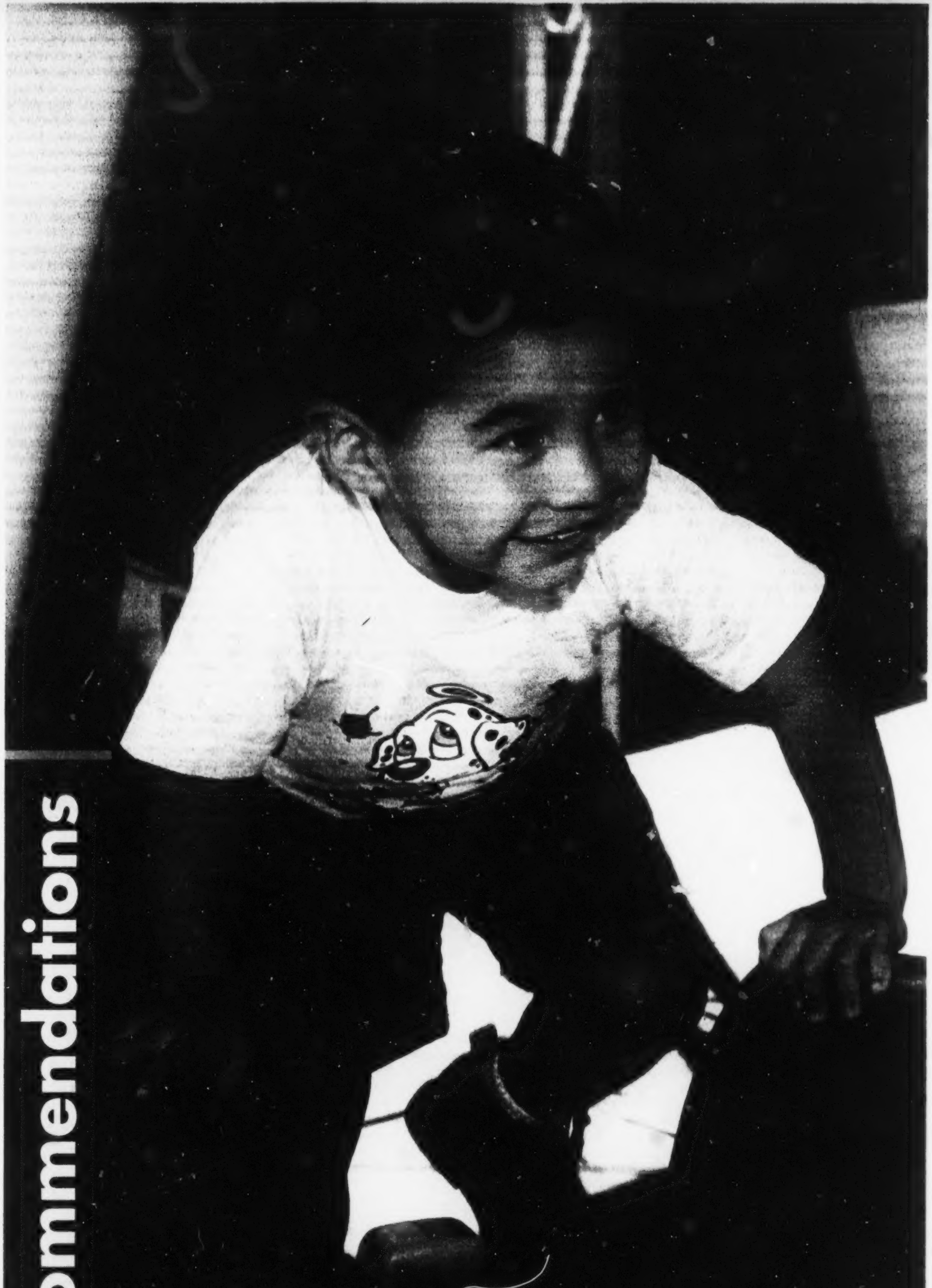
The rate of foster care placements has risen steadily since 1990. The rate was 8.7 children in foster care for every 1,000 youngsters in 1991 and grew to 9.9 children per 1,000 in 1996. From 1994 through 1996, the average length of stay in foster care for a child was slightly over two years, with a range of just under 10 months in Amador County to over 3 years in Kings County.

Guns still pose a threat to California's children. From 1994 to 1995, the number of children killed by guns increased from 471 to 488. The number of children injured by guns decreased slightly, from 1,507 to 1,393, a number equivalent to 48 classrooms of children.

In every county in 1995, some youth were arrested for a variety of crimes. In only three counties — Alpine, Modoc and Mono — none of the arrests related to violent crimes. The counties with the highest percentage of juvenile arrests for violent crime were San Francisco (20%) and Los Angeles (13%).

Over 90,000 children are in foster care, where the average length of stay is over two years.

recommendations



Adding It Up

for California's Families

With the state economy thriving, California has a new opportunity to invest in the well-being of its families. In 1997, California policymakers focused their attention on creating a new state welfare program in response to federal reforms. In 1998, state leaders can now concentrate on creating innovative strategies that help California's low-income workers achieve economic security for their children. A number of key policy recommendations are outlined below. County officials, with the flexibility provided by welfare reform, have a particular responsibility in 1998 to redesign their public/private infrastructure in ways that help families attain and sustain economic self-sufficiency.

Children are the ones most affected by welfare and other program decisions serving low-income Californians. Unfortunately, how state decisions impact children is poorly documented. There is no tracking by county of how many children live in poverty, are hungry or malnourished, lack health insurance, are awaiting quality child care. In order for counties and the state to plan human service programs and monitor their impact on children, better information on children's well-being must be gathered systematically at the county level. In the meantime, some steps can be taken immediately.

STATE LEADERS have a number of unique opportunities to improve the lives of California children and families in 1998:

- **Insure all children.** The new Healthy Families program will offer subsidized health insurance coverage to about 580,000 of the 1.7 million uninsured children through age 18. However, increased efforts are needed to reach over 500,000 children who are eligible but unenrolled in Medi-Cal. In addition, new public/private sector approaches must be adopted to insure the 500,000 uninsured children who are ineligible for subsidized coverage.

- **Expand child care.** Even with the additional funds allocated in the 1997-98 state budget for child care expansion, California will not meet even half the estimated need for subsidized care. Additional investment will be required to pay for quality child care. Special efforts should be undertaken to address the lack of infant care, school-aged care and care on evenings and weekends. Universally available pre-school would increase the kindergarten-readiness of all children.

- **Enact a refundable state Earned Income Credit (EIC).** California should utilize a portion of the new revenues generated by the strong economy to enact a refundable state EIC, which rewards work and helps low-income families make ends meet. Approximately two million California families would benefit through a state supplement to the federal EIC.

- **Improve child support enforcement**. The Legislature must ensure that a functioning statewide child support computer system is fully in place by early 1998; the program will not improve without appropriate management information. In addition, the Legislature should utilize standard data to evaluate the performance of all counties. Comprehensive data is the first step to creating an incentive system that rewards success and provides assistance to under-performing counties.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

- **Revise human service programs to better serve families**. As counties embark on developing their required County Plans in the coming months, they should:
  - Maximize community participation throughout the process — in developing the initial plan, monitoring outcomes and deciding upon revisions.
  - Engage the private sector to help reach goals. Work with business leaders to help develop strategies to create and sustain living-wage jobs

as well as expand the availability of quality, affordable child care.

- Take the opportunity to reconsider family services beyond those that serve people receiving welfare. Engage the community in developing new ways to support all families who face challenges providing for their children.

- **Monitor child support enforcement.** County District Attorneys are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the child support program. The County Board of Supervisors must ensure accountability by actively monitoring the program's effectiveness and working with their District Attorney's office to improve performance in the program's troubled spots.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- The private sector can engage in local and statewide efforts to expand child care and increase the number of children with health insurance.

- Employers can provide livable wages and benefits for employees and their dependents.

- The private sector can participate in county-level planning to redesign human service programs to support families.

ALL CALIFORNIANS

- Individuals can communicate priorities and share experiences with elected representatives. Voters can select candidates who demonstrate a commitment to helping families provide for their children.
- Individuals can help families in their own community by volunteering time and/or donating resources.
- Individuals and community groups can convey to the media the importance of local coverage of these issues.
- Community members can participate in county-level planning to redesign human service programs to support families.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Children Now is deeply grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed information and technical expertise to the production of this document. A full list is found in our companion publication *California County Data Book '97.*

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